LIFESTYLE / D1

Vindication, validation for DLSU Archers

BUSINESS / B1

Consortium led by French firm wins Calaca bid

WORLD / A23

Oil prices hit new record, nears $88 per barrel

METRO / A21

Crispin Beltran still under observation at PGH after vehicular accident

Gossip more potent than truth, says study

KAYA PALA MABENTA ANG CHISMIS SHOWS!

LONDON—GOSSIP is more powerful than truth, a study showed on Monday, suggesting people believe what they hear through the grapevine even if they have evi-

GOSSIP/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Wednesday, October 17, 2007 ★★★ 9 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 311 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Atienza: Malacañang gifts a normal thing

By TJ Burgonio

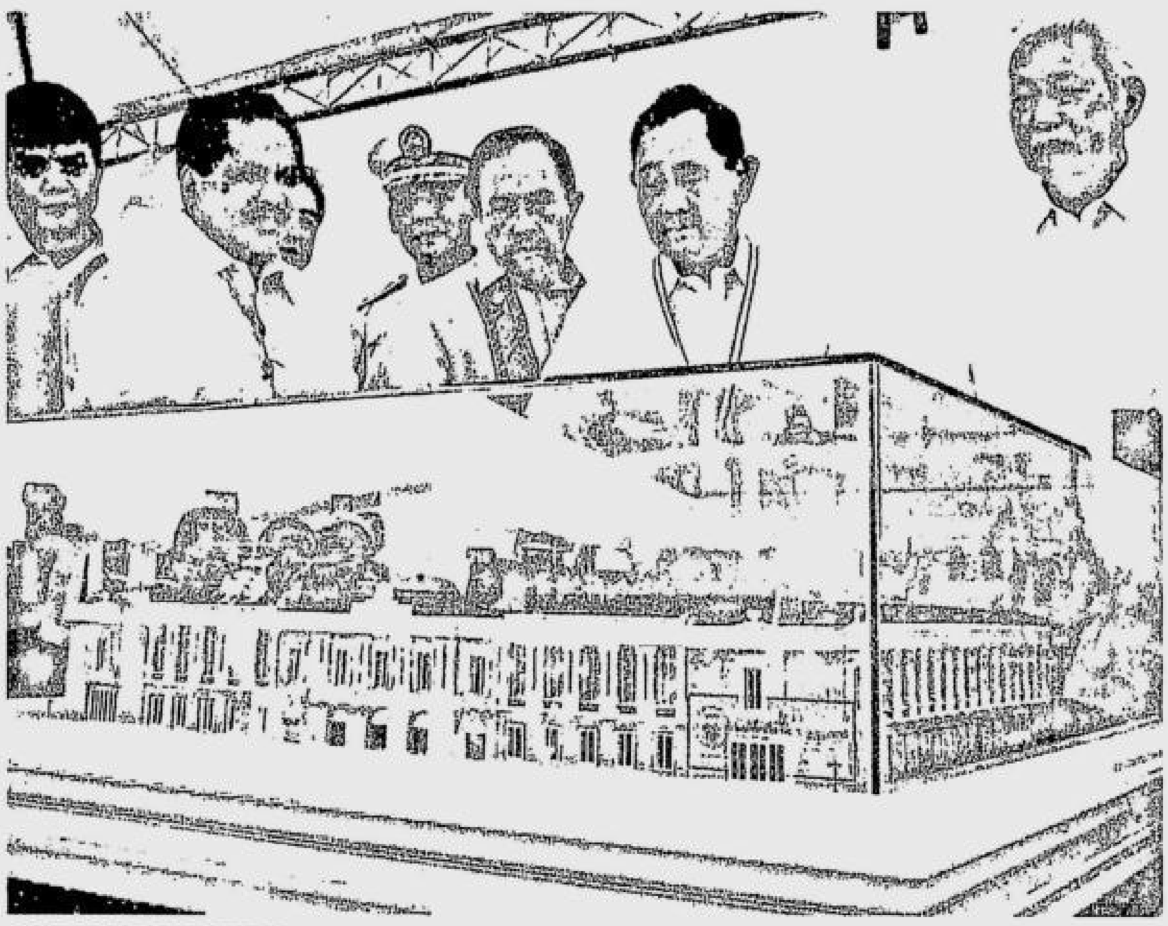
BY HIS OWN ADMISSION, ENVIRONMENT Secretary Lito Atienza received cash gifts from Malacañang ranging from P100,000 to P200,000 throughout his nine years as mayor of Manila.

Atienza, a staunch supporter of President Macapagal-Arroyo, said the Palace's

ATIENZA/ A10

CBCP tells execs: Admit Palace gift

'Our leaders are showing moral bankruptcy'



OLD IS NEW AGAIN
House Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. (second from right) and Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim (right) lead the unveiling of the scale model of the proposed reconstruction of the old Ayuntamiento building. Yesterday was the centennial anniversary of the First Philippine Assembly, convened at the old Manila Grand Opera House on Oct. 16, 1907. REM ZAMORA

ASSAILING THE "MORAL bankruptcy" of national leaders, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines yesterday called on other public officials to follow the lead of Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio.

The CBCP, through its spokesperson Msgr. Pedro Quitorio, also expressed support for the Senate's plan to formally investigate the purported distribution of money to lawmakers and local government officials during or after separate meetings with President Macapagal-Arroyo on Oct. 11 in Malacañang.

It said the first step to address the issue was for other public officials to admit that they had received money from Malacañang, as Panlilio, a Catholic priest, had done.

"What Governor Panlilio did was part of being transparent about the issue. His transparency is laudable," Quitorio said at a briefing.

"The other public officials should emulate what he did. Transparency is the first step to removing the moral bankruptcy in government," Quitorio said.

He added that the next step was for these public officials to return the money.

According to the CBCP president, Archbishop Angel Lagdameo of Jaro, Iloilo, the fact that the money came from an unknown source and had a vague purpose made it questionable.

Ultimately, he said, one would have to ask whether it

CBCP/ A19

NEW URBAN HUB
President Macapagal-Arroyo, flanked by Vice President Noli de Castro and Ayala Land chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala, formally opens the TriNoma (Triangle North of Manila) mall in Quezon City on Tuesday. The newest premiere shopping destination of Ayala Malls is linked directly to the North Avenue Station of the MRT. LYN RILLON

Still no statement from GMA herself

By Michael Lim Ubac, Christian V. Esguerra and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

IT WAS A WINDFALL THAT WAS hard to resist, yet five days after it was exposed, nobody seems to want to be associated with it.

Pointed to by Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno as the group that might know who masterminded the distribution of bags filled with money to congressmen and governors at Malacañang last week, the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) yesterday flatly denied any hand in the operation.

In the face of the seemingly burgeoning scandal, not one word has been heard from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Asked for Ms Arroyo's comment on the issue, Puno sent a text message to the INQUIRER yesterday evening: "She will [make a statement] very soon. *Nagtatatanong. Galit na galit* (She is asking. She is very angry)."

To the head of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LLP), Misamis Occidental Gov. Leo Ocampos, the funds and their sources have become a "mystery."

"Because of this mystery left and right, this has become an issue ... the more mysterious the whole thing has become," Ocampos said.

The controversy centers on disclosures by Pampanga Gov.

STILL/ A19

Opposition hopes pro-GMA solons will agree to investigate payoffs

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Norman Bordadora

OPPOSITION MEMBERS OF THE Senate and the House of Representatives moved yesterday to investigate allegations of payoffs by Malacañang in the midst of a fresh attempt to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In the House, leftist party-list groups yesterday filed a resolution asking the chamber to have the committees on ethics and on good government to look into the distribution of P200,000 to P500,000 to lawmakers during last week's meeting in Malacañang.

In filing House Resolution No. 288, the congressmen said the alleged payoffs tend to confirm suspicion that Malacañang wanted a weak impeachment referred to the committee on justice to immunize Ms Arroyo from a stronger suit.

The resolution calls on the two committees to look into the alleged bribery in Malacañang supposedly meant "to influence

OPPOSITION/ A10

Marines affected by latest political row

By Nikko Dizon

THE COMMANDANT OF THE PHILIPPINE Marines yesterday said allegations that Malacañang had attempted to bribe congressmen and local officials had affected soldiers but that he had not yet heard grumbling so far.

Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino warned that any attempt by rogue elements of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to overthrow the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo could lead to a civil war.

"In one way or another, we are affected but our professionalism should reign over our respective personal and political interests," Dolorfino told reporters in an interview at the Philippine Marines Headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

He said he did not think there were indications of "grumbling" in the rank and file. He said the military leadership had been reminding officers and their men to distance themselves from

MARINES/ A8

SPECIAL REPORT

RP once again part of US global posture

By Herbert Docena
Contributor

(Conclusion)

REFERRING TO THEIR BASES IN MINDANAO as "forward operating base-11" and "advanced operating base-921," the Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines (JSOTF-P) corresponds to what a US Air Force-sponsored study described as the ongoing "redefinition of what forward presence means."

In terms of profile and mission, the JSOTF-P is similar to the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-Horn of Africa), which was established in Djibouti in eastern Africa in 2003, also composed mostly of Special Forces, and which has been described as a sample of the US austere basing template and the "model for future US military operations."

Indeed, more deployments similar to that of the JSOTF-P and CJTF-Horn of Africa are planned in other locations around the world in the future. In 2004, former Pacific Command (PaCom) head Thomas Fargo talked about expanding Special Operations Forces in the Pacific.

Apparently referring to the JSOTF-P, then Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld also announced that the Pentagon would establish more "nodes for special operations forces."

RP AGAIN/ A8

POP and classical singer Josh Groban arrives at the MTV Philippines office during its inauguration on Tuesday. RUDY ESPERAS

Josh Groban promises high energy

By Pocholo Concepcion
Entertainment

ALL THE CHATTING AND nibbling stopped as women rushed forward with their cameras and men craned their necks for a better view of the good-looking Josh Groban, guest of honor at the inauguration of MTV Philippines' new office at the Silver City Mall in Pasig.

Groban, the 26-year-old American singing sensation whose expressive tenor and lyrical baritone has sold some 15 million records worldwide, is due to perform tonight and tomorrow night at the Philippine Internation-

JOSH GROBAN/ A10

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern and Eastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with rainshowers while Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Mostly Cloudy
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Mostly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Mostly Cloudy
Calapan	Mostly Cloudy	**Davao**	Mostly Cloudy

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JDV won't 'Cha-cha' with GMA

Speaker stands by self-imposed moratorium; Pimentel wary but supportive

WHAT'S INSIDE

SLAIN lawyer's wife ordered arrested /A6

IT'S LAGUNA solon's turn to bare bribe try /A7

LEYTE SOLON asks Sandigan to reverse conviction /A11

By Christian V. Esguerra and Dona Pazzibugan

HOUSE SPEAKER JOSE De Venecia, an all-out advocate for Charter change, yesterday distanced himself from President Macapagal-Arroyo's revived efforts to amend the Constitution to pave the way for federalism by 2012.

De Venecia said he was standing by his declaration of a one-year moratorium on any move to amend the Charter to allow government to focus on the economy.

"I made a promise to all of you [that there] will be no 'Cha-cha' this year. I don't want to break my own commitment," he told reporters after the centennial commemoration yesterday of the American-era Philippine Assembly, the first elective legislative body in Southeast Asia.

De Venecia said the "best time" to tackle Charter change would be during the first quarter of next year, but only after a consensus is built among key sectors like government, political parties, civil society, academe, the Church and the media.

He said he would sit down with the President to clarify key points in her latest move to revive Charter change, such as the mode and "specific areas of constitutional reforms."

"Federalism is a very good idea. You need a period of five to 10 years for transition," he said.

On Monday, Ms Arroyo said she was forming a panel to draft "a roadmap to federalism by 2012," to consist of the heads of the interior and local government and justice departments, the Presidential Management Staff, the National Economic and Development Authority, and local government executives and legislators.

Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros yesterday pointed out that the new Cha-cha drive did not seem to involve De Venecia, a key figure in a similar campaign in the 13th Congress, whose support would be needed for it to succeed.

Renewed interest

Hontiveros said the renewed interest in federalism could be related to the huge cash gifts that Malacañang allegedly distributed to local government officials and House members last week. Federalism is a subject that would be pleasing to the local executives, she said.

"It's not a call for genuine federalism, which should lead to empowerment from below. [Her] Cha-cha is meant to consolidate the support of the President's local allies to respond to a threat that emanates from [De Venecia]," she said.

The disclosures of the Speaker's son about the alleged bribery in the $329-million national broadband network (NBN) deal have supposedly caused a rift between the President and De Venecia.

The move to revive Charter change may not be related to the impeachment moves against the President but rather may be the real agenda behind the reported payoffs to local officials, said Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, president of the United Opposition.

Binay said the recent push for Cha-cha could be the President's "final desperate gambit to stay in power forever."

He said the main proponents of Charter change were the "same personalities who met with Mrs. Arroyo and her political lieutenants in Malacañang," in which Palace staff were reported to have distributed money ranging from P200,000 to P500,000.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday grudgingly gave support for the President's call for federalism by 2012 as he said he has long advocated a shift to a federal system.

Pimentel said he shares the "suspicions of many people" that the revival of Cha-cha was a ploy to divert attention away from the controversies Ms Arroyo faces.

"Because my advocacy of federalism started long before Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo became President and transcends political consideration or differences, the idea that it should now be discussed is acceptable to me," he said.

But Pimentel stressed that while he supports the campaign for federalism, he would never "agree to any ploy" that would extend the President's hold on power beyond 2010. *With a report from DJ Yap*

"WATCH AND PRAY"

October 4, 2007
Sta. Isabel College - Taft Avenue, Manila

We, concerned Church people from the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP), the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines of the National Capital Region (CEAP-NCR), the Manila Archdiocesan and Parochial Schools Association (MAPSA) and the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) gathered today, October 4, 2007, at the Sta. Isabel College, Manila to reflect on the present turbulence in Philippine society caused by the unfolding of events in the on-going Senate hearings. We gathered credible information on the events and issues and sought to reflect on these in the light of our faith.

The present controversy has affected us deeply and awakened many feelings:

- Confusion, because amidst charges and counter-charges, the truth behind the latest NBN-ZTE controversy still eludes us, and government leaders involved refuse to be accountable and transparent to the people who have a right to know
- Anger and outrage at the potential harm done to the Filipino people, by a contract, now already scrapped, that would have placed an enormous economic burden on the Filipino people, for the sake of the vested interests of a few.
- Even greater anger when we glimpse that this project, carried out with great secrecy, involved corruption on a very large scale, apparently among leaders in very high places. How high this corruption goes still remains to be discovered.
- Deep dissatisfaction and loss of trust, because this is but the latest instance in a long series of still unresolved cases of apparent corruption among public officials.
- Sadness and disillusionment because this recent controversy is another manifestation of the culture of corruption, non-accountability and impunity, which plagues not only the government but also much of our Philippine culture, and which exacerbates the already excessive poverty of our people.

Moved by our Christian faith in the Lord who is Truth and our adherence to the Catholic social vision which calls all, especially those in public office to work for the common good, we commit ourselves to the following:

1. ADVOCACY FOR TRUTH AND ACCOUNTABILITY:

Despite our weariness, we resolve to advocate for the continued search for truth behind what seems like a cover-up aimed at misleading the Filipino people. We refuse to "move on" in the name of a promised progress, because we know that unless a culture and the protocols of transparency and accountability are in place, no progress will be real and lasting. This resolve includes a demand to bring to justice those whom a credible process of inquiry reveals to be guilty of crimes against the Filipino people.

2. CULTURAL REGENERATION:

We acknowledge that corruption is ingrained in our culture, indeed in ourselves. We commit ourselves and our institutions to cultural renewal. We will examine ourselves in humility and honesty and find means to heighten our awareness of the taint of corruption in our lives and institutions, as well as come up with ways of correcting practices which are outrightly corrupt or which border on or lead to corruption. We will proactively promote a culture of integrity, and practice transparency and accountability in our own lives and in our institutions. We will reinvigorate and strengthen values formation and education at all levels.

3. ENGAGEMENT TOWARD GOOD LEADERSHIP:

We will help train leaders, work towards the emergence of alternative leaders, and be actively involved in the forthcoming electoral exercises, especially that of 2010, so that these will result in honest elections. that will place in power leaders who are accountable, competent and committed to the real service of our people especially the poor. This will involve working toward electoral reform and revitalizing voters' education and advocating a credible COMELEC. This also means educating the young towards political participation and holiness.

Despite the magnitude of the challenges we face, we dare to hope extravagantly, because we believe in the goodness of our people and the power of the Lord working in and among us.

We call to mind the teachings of the Church: *"Men and women have the specific duty to move always towards the truth, to respect it and bear witness to it. Living in the truth has special significance in social relationships…" (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church #197).* Bearing this in mind and carrying hope in our hearts, we will seek to create "islands of excellence and light" amidst a sea of darkness in our country. However modest these beginning, we believe that when these "islands" are joined together in a network, we will have built up a country of excellence and light, of integrity and truth.

SGD:

Very Rev. Jesus M. Malit, SSS
Mother Mary John Mananzan, OSB
Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines **(AMRSP)**

Msgr. Gerardo O. Santos
Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines – the National Capital Region **(CEAP-NCR)**
Manila Archdiocesan & Parochial Schools Association **(MAPSA)**

Ambassador Henrietta T. de Villa
Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting **(PPCRV)**

October 4, 2007
Sta. Isabel College – Manila

SC asked to stop release of AFP report

By Leila B. Salaverria

ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. has asked the Supreme Court to stop the release of the Provost Marshal Report on the missing license plates which were later seen in the get-away vehicle of the abductors of activist Jonas Burgos.

Esperon and Provost Marshal General Col. Arthur Abadilla asked the high court, through the Office of the Solicitor General, for a temporary restraining order on the Court of Appeals' subpoena for Abadilla's report and testimony on the loss of the license plates inside an Army camp in Norzagaray, Bulacan.

Abadilla's report was subpoenaed during the hearing at the Court of Appeals on the petition for habeas corpus filed by Jonas' mother Edita against President Macapagal-Arroyo and several top military officers.

Jonas, son of the late press freedom fighter Joe Burgos, was abducted by armed men on April 28, 2007 from a Quezon City mall. He has since been missing.

The license plates of the abductors' get-away vehicle were later traced to a jeep parked inside an Army camp.

In their petition, the military officers invoked anew Memorandum Circular 78 that regulates the release of confidential documents, saying the appellate court's subpoena effectively declassified the report in violation of the separation of powers.

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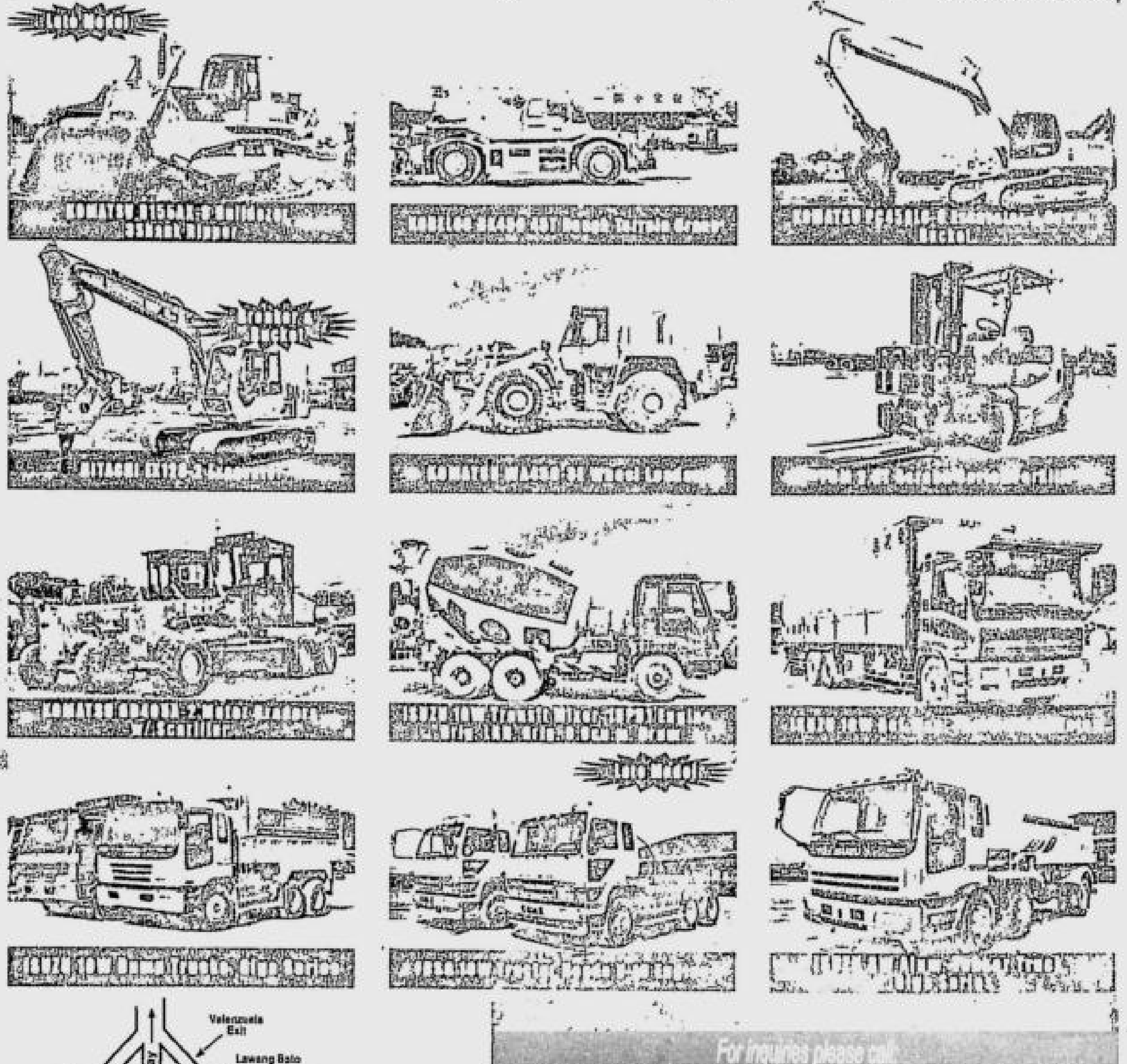

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Petron wins TRO in Bataan

By Abigail L. Ho

PETRON CORP. HAS secured a temporary restraining order from the Bataan Regional Trial Court, preventing the provincial treasurer of Bataan from auctioning off the oil company's assets today.

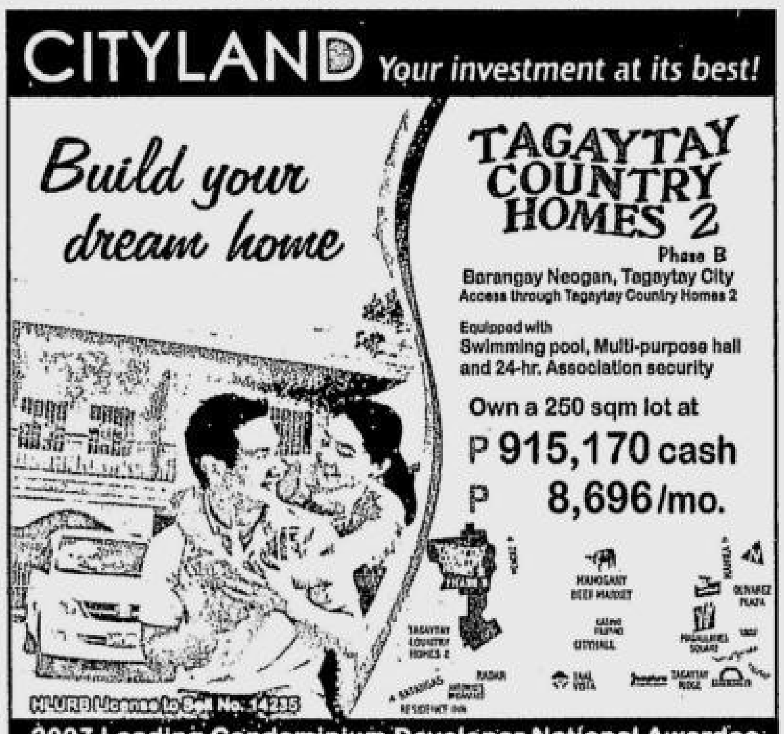
In a statement yesterday, Petron said the Bataan RTC ruled that the public auction of the oil firm's properties was "premature and violates Petron's right to due process."

The provincial treasurer has scheduled the auction of Petron's refinery properties today, following the oil firm's alleged non-payment of P1.7 billion worth of realty taxes from 1994 to the first half of 2007.

Petron vice president for legal and external affairs Jose Jesus Laurel said, however, that the provincial treasurer's claims had no basis, adding that the revised tax assessment was "erroneous, excessive and invalid."

He said Petron had been religiously paying its property taxes over the past years and was even advancing payments at times.

According to company records, Laurel said Petron had paid property taxes amounting to P1.675 billion, based on previous assessments made or approved by the province.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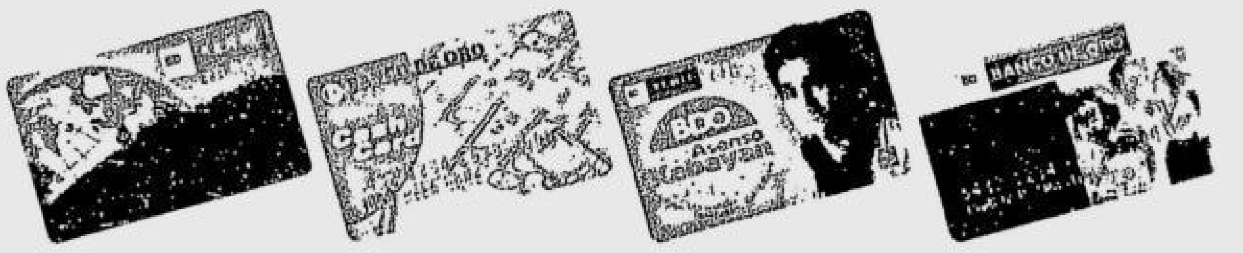
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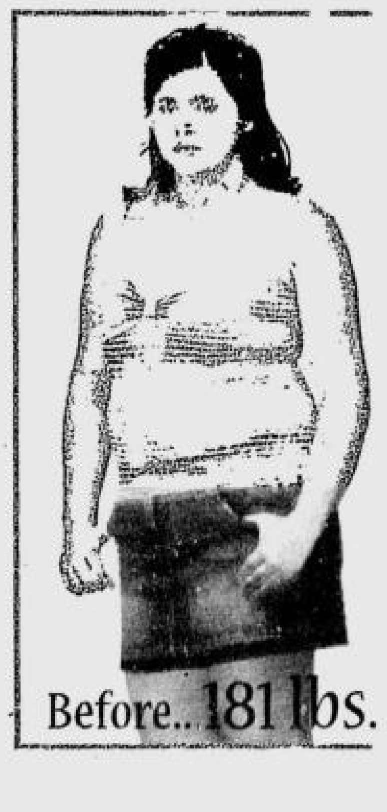
Aiko: I gained weight even after lipo!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The 20th ASSA Board Meeting

messages

Warmest congratulations to the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, Social Security System, Government Service Insurance System, and the Home Development Mutual Fund as well as the other member institutions of the Philippine Social Security Association (PHILSSA) for convening the 20th Asean Social Security Association (ASSA) Board Meeting on October 16-22, 2007 at the Heritage Hotel.

This important meeting will bring together the heads of the social security institutions of Brunei, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Social security is one of the pillars of this administration's roadmap to national development and progress. Development can only be sustained if the citizenry is secured and protected from the effects of poverty: ill health, unemployment, old age, and disability.

I, therefore, wish you a fruitful exchange of ideas and experiences as well all strive to provide adequate social protection for all our peoples in the region.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

My warmest felicitations to the member-institutions of the Philippine Social Security Association (PHILSSA) as it hosts the 20th ASSA (ASEAN Social Security Association) Board Meeting. I also welcome the esteemed delegates from social security institutions from Brunei, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Social Justice encompasses, among other things, the betterment of the plight of the working class. The promotion of social justice involves the implementation of various social security services aimed at harnessing the productivity of the people and drawing them into the mainstream of the economy. Through a framework of international concern, I believe we can come up with sound and viable social security services that are responsive to the ever-increasing needs of our members and beneficiaries.

I commend the PhilHealth, SSS, GSIS, HDMF and other member-institutions of PHILSSA for bringing together the distinguished delegates to this prestigious occasion. Indeed, our people will greatly benefit from this endeavor as it would provide an opportunity for our officials to exchange ideas with their counterparts from other countries and come up with collective solution for the improvement of our social security services.

I exhort you to remain steadfast in your dedication to achieve utmost efficiency in your mandated tasks to hasten our pursuit of achieving sustainable development for our country and the ASEAN region.

Mabuhay!

NOLI "Kabayan" DE CASTRO
Vice President
Republic of the Philippines

My warmest greetings to the organizers of the 20th ASEAN Social Security Association (ASSA) Board Meeting. It is with great pride and honor that we welcome our foreign and local delegates to this gathering of social security experts for a timely exchange of insights and experiences on social protection practices in the region.

It is my belief that the sharing of experiences among the member-countries of the ASSA will be another meaningful and worthwhile activity. Over the years, the ASSA has shown its commitment to further the goals of social protection of various sectors of society and through the constant interaction among member-countries, best practices are encouraged, and even replicated for the improvement of the entire system.

I am optimistic that this meeting will again greatly help the Association in developing and promoting social security schemes among its member-countries.

Mabuhay!

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, M.D.
Secretary
Department of Health

Our warmest greetings to the local and international delegates from various social security institutions in the Region as we gather for this important event, the 20th ASEAN Social Security Association (ASSA) Board Meeting.

The theme "Ensuring Social Security" is indeed very relevant, for millions of poor people in Southeast Asia remain vulnerable to all types of risks, from natural catastrophes to unemployment, from exploitation to diseases. All of these call for continued social protection from responsible governments. It is, therefore, our role as harbingers of social protection to come together and see how best we can minimize, if not eliminate, these risks.

As we meet and dialogue during this three-day event, let us strengthen our commitment to make social security programs and policies more relevant and responsive to the Region's needs and assist people in their struggle against poverty. Social security is a tool against social inequity, especially in countries where the population growth is very rampant.

Together, let us work in providing adequate social security in all areas to achieve sustainable development in our region.

LORNA O. FAJARDO
Acting President and CEO

On behalf of the member institutions of the Philippine Social Security Association (PHILSSA), I welcome the board members and other delegates to the 20th ASEAN Social Security Association (ASSA) Board Meeting, to be held in Manila from October 16 to 19, 2007.

As representatives of various organizations tasked with providing social protection in our respective countries, we all share common objectives, experiences and concerns. The importance of our work in ensuring the welfare of our countrymen gives us a vital role in the development of the ASEAN region.

This event therefore is not just a Board Meeting but also a meeting of minds: a valuable opportunity to interact and exchange ideas. The PHILSSA members are pleased to welcome our colleagues from the region, and to contribute to the body of knowledge on social security by sharing some lessons learned from our own practices.

At the heart of social security is a deep sense of humanity and responsibility. It is my hope that aside from this event, the warmth and happiness of the Filipino people will also help further strengthen this sense among our guests, as we continue carrying out our all-important duties.

More power to ASSA. Mabuhay!

ATTY. ROMERO F. S. QUIMBO (Sgd.)
Pag-IBIG Fund President and CEO
PHILSSA Chairman

Ensuring Social Security

RP hosts 20th ASEAN Meet on Social Security

The Philippines is hosting the 20th ASEAN Social Security Association (ASSA) Board Meeting from October 16 to 20, 2007 at the Heritage Hotel in Pasay City. The conference is jointly organized by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Social Security System (SSS) and the Philippine Social Security Association (PHILSSA).

The theme of the three-day meet is "Ensuring Social Security." It aims to promote Regional cooperation in all areas of social security activities, exchange experiences and information on social security, and cooperate in the defense, promotion and development of social security schemes through trainings, seminars, consultations and dialogues, among others.

Renowned authorities from social security institutions in Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos and the Philippines will convene to promote the development of social security in the Asia-Pacific Region in consonance with the aspirations, laws and regulations of the ASSA member-countries.

Leading the roster of guest speakers is Health Secretary Francisco T. Duque III who will give the Keynote Address. Other speakers include former Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun who will tackle The Environment and Social Security; Gawad Kalinga Executive Director Antonio Meloto who will talk on Empowering the Poor; Home Development Mutual Fund President and CEO and PHILSSA Chair Atty. Romero Quimbo who will share experiences on Social Security in the Philippines and PhilHealth Acting President and CEO Lorna O. Fajardo who will discuss Digital Governance.

Consultants of the International Labor Organization Edward Tamagno and Barbara Jo Domingo will also talk on Social Security Agreements in ASEAN Countries and on the Philippine experience in Electronic Money Remittance for Migrant Workers, respectively.

Best social security practices in Indonesia, Vietnam, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines will also be presented.

The ASSA

THE ASEAN SOCIAL SECURITY ASSOCIATION (ASSA) is the umbrella organization of social security institutions from eight (8) countries in the Asia-Pacific region, namely, Brunei, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines. The Memorandum of Agreement among the original members of the ASSA was signed in 1998.

The Philippines is an original signatory of the ASSA and now has three (3) seats in the ASSA Board. The seats are from the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) and the Social Security system (SSS).

Objectives of the ASSA

The objectives of the ASSA are as follows:

1. To promote the development of social security in the region in consonance with the aspirations, laws and regulations of the member-countries;
2. To promote regional cooperation in all areas of social security activities;
3. To exchange experiences and information on social security;
4. To work in cooperation with other social security institutions in the region and in East Asia, and with similar or related organizations of social security in any part of the world; and
5. To cooperate in the defence, promotion and development of social security schemes through trainings, seminars, consultations and dialogues, among others.

The proposal to form the ASSA was put forward by the Indonesia National Social Security Association sometime in September 1995. The rationale behind the proposal was to establish a regional body representing all social security organizations of ASEAN member-countries. In view of the similarity of objectives, programs and activities of ASEAN social security organizations, ASSA will provide a forum for senior officials to meet regularly. Through the establishment of the ASSA, meaningful regional cooperation is fostered among the social security organizations, especially in the areas of training, research and development.

Member Institutions

The following are the institutions represented in the Board of Directors of the ASSA:

BRUNEI
Employees Trust Fund
INDONESIA
Indonesian National Social Security Association
LAO PDR
Social Security Organization
MALAYSIA
Employees Provident Fund
Social Security Organization
PHILIPPINES
Government Service Insurance System
Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
Social Security System
SINGAPORE
Central Provident Fund Board
THAILAND
Social Security Office
VIETNAM
Vietnam Social Security

MEMBERS OF THE ASSA BOARD

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Datuk Azlan Zainol
Chief Executive Officer
Employees Provident Fund
Malaysia

Vice Chairman

Lorna O. Fajardo
Acting President and Chief Executive Officer
Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
Philippines

Members

Awang Yusof bin Hj Abd Rahman
Acting Managing Director
Employees Trust Fund
Brunei

Dr Orie Andari Sutadji
President Director, PT Askes
Indonesian National Social Security Association
Indonesia

Mr Khamphouang Inthaseng
Director General
Social Security Organisation
Lao PDR

Dr. Soh Chee Seng
Chief Executive Officer
Social Security Organization
Malaysia

Attorney Winston F. Garcia
President and General Manager
Government Service Insurance System
Philippines

Ms. Corazon C. Santos de la Paz
President and Chief Executive Officer
Social Security System
Philippines

Mr. Liew Heng San
Chief Executive Officer
Central Provident Fund Board
Singapore

Mr. Surin Chiravisit
Secretary-General
Social Security Office
Thailand

Dr. Nguyen Huy Ban
Director General
Vietnam Social Security
Vietnam

Secretary-General

Mr. Ibrahim Bin Taib
Senior General Manager
Employees Provident Fund
Malaysia

The 20th ASSA Board Meeting
October 16-20, 2007
Manila, Philippines

October 16, 2007 (Tuesday)	
Whole Day	Arrival and Early Registration of Foreign Delegates

October 17, 2007 (Wednesday)	
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Registration
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Welcome Address *Ms. Lorna O. Fajardo* President and CEO, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) Vice Chair, ASEAN Social Security Association (ASSA)
	Opening of the Pre-ASSA Board Meeting *Datuk Azlan Zainol* President, Employees Provident Fund Chair, ASEAN Social Security Association (ASSA)
	Introduction of the Guest Speaker *Atty. Romero F.S. Quimbo* President and CEO, Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) Chair, Philippine Social Security Association (PHILSSA) 2000 Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) for Government Service
	Keynote Address *"Ensuring Social Security"* *HON. FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III* Secretary of Health
10:00 am - 10:30 am	Morning Coffee Break
10:30 am - 11:15 am	Pre-ASSA Board Meeting Seminar Session 1 *"Empowering the Poor"* *Mr. Antonio "Tony" P. Meloto* Gawad Kalinga (GK) builder Tony Meloto is the 2006 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Community Leadership. Literally meaning "to give care", GK's vision is a slum-free, squatter-free nation through a simple strategy of providing land for the landless, homes for the homeless, food for the hungry and as a result providing dignity and peace for every Filipino.
11:15 am - 12:00 nn	Pre-ASSA Board Meeting Seminar Session 2 *"The Environment and Social Security"* *Ms. Elisea G. Gozun* Ms. Gozun is a former Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and is one of 2007 Champions of the Earth by the United National Environment Program (UNEP). Ms. Gozun is cited for "pushing forward the environmental agenda in her native Philippines by winning the trust of business leaders, non-government organizations and political decision-makers alike"
12:00 nn - 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Pre-ASSA Board Meeting Seminar Session 3 *"Social Security Agreements in ASEAN Countries"* Mr. Edward Tamagno ILO Consultant *"Electronic Money Remittance to Extend Social Security Coverage for Migrant Workers: The Case of the Philippines"* Ms. Barbara Jo L. Domingo ILO Consultant
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Afternoon Break
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm	Pre-ASSA Board Meeting Seminar Session 4 "Social Security in the Philippines" *Atty. Romero F.S. Quimbo* President and CEO, Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) Chair, Philippine Social Security Association (PHILSSA) 2000 Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) for Government Service "Digital Governance" Ms. Lorna O. *Fajardo* President and CEO, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) Vice Chair, ASEAN Social Security Association (ASSA)
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm	Welcome Dinner

October 18, 2007 (Thursday)	
8:30 am - 10:00 am	Presentation of Good Practices *"Controlling the Health Care Quality and Cost Through List and Ceiling Price of Drugs"* Indonesia *"Extending Health Insurance Coverage to Informal Sector - The Vietnam Experience"* Vietnam *"The G-H@PS of the Government Service Insurance System"* Philippines
10:00 am - 10:30 am	Morning Coffee Break
10:30 am - 12:00 pm	20th ASSA Board Meeting (Board members only)
12:00 pm - 12:30 pm	Group Picture Taking
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm	Lunch
1:15 pm - 1:45 pm	ASSA Technical Secretariat Meeting
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Visit to the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) Assembly time is 1:45 pm at the hotel lobby
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm	Farewell Dinner

October 19, 2007 (Friday)	
9:00 am - 11:30 am	Tour of Fort Santiago, Casa Manila and San Agustin Church and Museum Assembly time is 8:45 am at the hotel lobby
11:30 am - 2:00 pm	Lunch
2:00 pm - onwards	Free time at the SM Mall of Asia

October 20, 2007 (Saturday)	
Whole Day	Departure of Delegates

guest speakers

Opening of
Pre-ASSA Board Meeting

Datuk Azlan Zainol
President, Employees Provident Fund
Chair, ASEAN Social Security Association

Keynote Address
"Ensuring Social Security"

Hon. Francisco T. Duque III, M.D.
Secretary, Department of Health

"Empowering the Poor"

Mr. Antonio P. Meloto
Gawad Kalinga Builder
2006 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Community Leadership

"The Environment and Social Security"

Ms. Elisea G. Gozun
2007 Champions of the Earth
(United Nations Environment Program)

"Social Security Agreements in ASEAN Countries"

Mr. Edward Tamagno
Consultant, International Labor Organization

"Electronic Money Remittance to Extend Social Security Coverage for Migrant Workers: The Case of the Philippines"

Ms. Barbara Jo L. Domingo
Consultant, International Labor Organization

"Social Security in the Philippines"

Atty. Romero F.S. Quimbo
President and CEO, Home Development Mutual Fund
Chair, Philippine Social Security Association

"Digital Governance"

Ms. Lorna O. Fajardo
President and CEO, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
Vice Chair, ASEAN Social Security Association

The PHILSSA

THE PHILIPPINES ALSO HAS AN umbrella organization called the Philippine Social Security Association (PHILSSA). It was established on July 1, 1996 with the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among institutions that include the GSIS, PhilHealth and SSS. The Home Development Mutual fund (HDMF), the Employees Compensation Commission (ECC) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines - Retirement and Separation Benefit System (RSBS) are also among the original member-agencies of PHILSSA.

After a hiatus from 2000 - 2002, the PHILSSA was revived by then PhilHealth President and CEO and now Secretary of Health Dr. Francisco T. Duque III. The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) also joined the PHILSSA.

The PHILSSA had its successful National Convention at the Philippine International Convention Center in February 2004 and was attended by Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

There are six (6) PHILSSA subcommittees, namely, Committee on Fraud Control and Detection System, Committee on Information Technology and Data System, Committee on Membership and Public Relations, Committee on Publications, Committee on International and Legislative Affairs, and Financial, Actuarial and Statistical Committee.

With the end-view of developing the social security system of the Philippines, PHILSSA has also conducted and completed research projects on matters relevant to these functions such as tax exemption, tax problems of social security institutions, social security data system, and fraud/abuse control and detection in social security administration.

The current Chair of the PHILSSA is Atty. Romero Quimbo, President and CEO of HDMF.

Chiz asks Alan: Why the secrecy?

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ESCUDERO

OPPOSITION SEN. Francis "Chiz" Escudero is questioning Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano's decision to keep under wraps yesterday's testimony of businessman Jose "Joey" de Venecia III before the technical working group of the blue ribbon committee.

Cayetano, who has been criticized for supposedly going slow on the Senate probe into the $329-million national broadband network (NBN) deal with the Chinese-based ZTE Corp., is chair of the blue ribbon, of which Escudero is the vice chair.

Escudero, who called a press conference yesterday, said he did not know of any rules prescribing that the hearings of the technical working group be kept secret. What he knew was that such meetings are to be kept open to the public unless it is declared that the hearing would be held behind closed doors in executive session, he said.

Something new

"That's something new to me. I don't want to raise the issue to fight with him [Cayetano] but just to ask why it was done behind closed doors without necessarily raising any doubt with respect to [the] motive behind it," the senator said.

Earlier, opposition Sen. Jamby Madrigal made the accusation that Cayetano and Senate President Manuel Villar were being forced to scuttle the NBN probe by Malacañang and an influential businessman.

According to Escudero, the NBN probe, though it opened to a rousing start, had lost its momentum because of the unusually long gap between the last hearing (Sept. 27) and the next (Oct. 25).

"It cannot be denied that it has cooled down because of the long delay. But it's the government's fault why it has remained a hot issue because of the recent talk on bribes and the impeachment and their intention to prove that they are right and not wrong by pushing for the ZTE contract," said Escudero.

After the technical working group meeting, De Venecia told reporters that he was asked "clarificatory questions on some of the events and some of the meetings held with Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos and other [transportation and communications department] officials."

De Venecia said he was hopeful that Romulo Neri, chair of the Commission on Higher Education, would appear in the hearing scheduled for Oct. 25 to respond to questions on what the President did after being informed of the bribe offer to Neri.

"If he does not, there's nothing else," said De Venecia.

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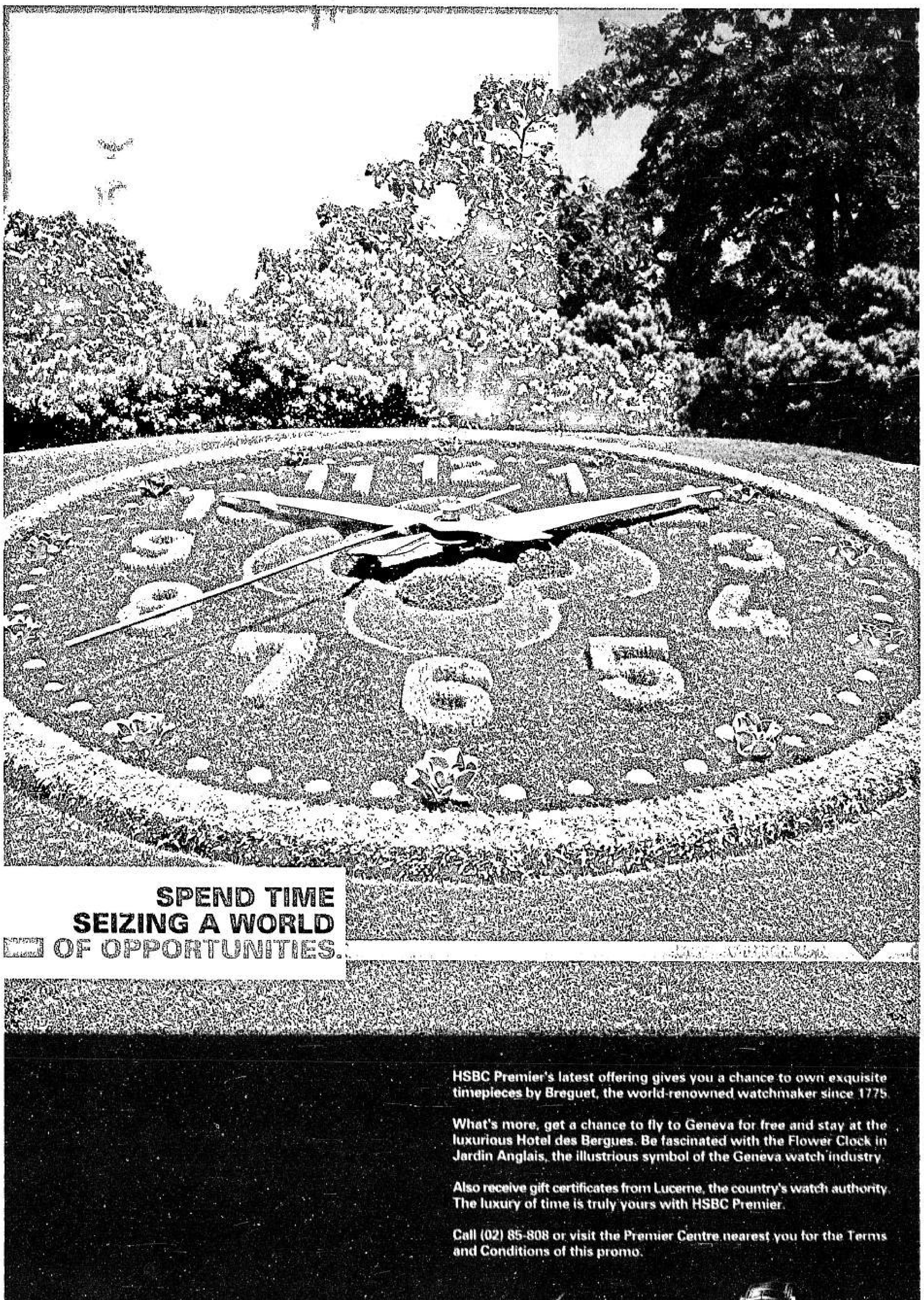

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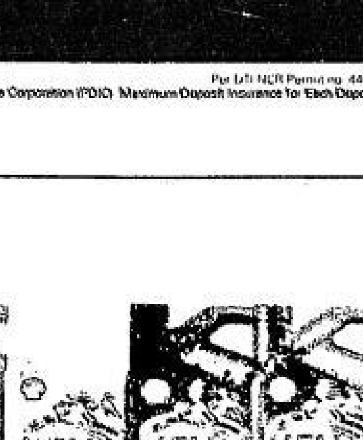

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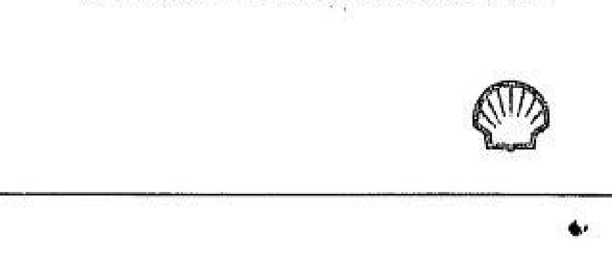

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SUSPECTED PARRICIDE 'MASTERMIND'

Slain lawyer's wife ordered arrested

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUPREME COURT HAS ORdered the immediate arrest of the wife of Jun Valerio, the chief of the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel who was murdered seven years ago, on suspicion that she masterminded the killing of her husband.

The high court said there was strong proof to implicate Milagros Valerio, also known as Marimar, in the fatal shooting of her husband right in front of their Quezon City home. It ordered her immediate arrest and detention and the cancellation of her bail bond.

The Supreme Court allowed another suspect in the case, Samuel Baran, to turn state witness, reversing a Quezon City regional trial court order, affirmed by the Court of Appeals, that allowed Milagros to post bail and denied a prosecution plea to make Baran a state witness.

The high court said the lower court should not have given Milagros temporary liberty as one of the suspects had confessed to shooting Jun and had tagged Milagros, who is charged with parricide, as the mastermind.

Principal by inducement

"When taken in conjunction with the other evidence on record, these facts show very strongly that Milagros may have participated as principal by inducement in the murder of Jun Valerio. It was thus a grave error or a grave abuse of discretion committed by the trial court to grant her application for bail," the high court said in the decision, dated Oct. 10.

Milagros argued that she was entitled to bail because the evidence against her was weak. She said the Quezon City court's findings on the credibility of the witnesses should be respected as it was the lower court that heard the testimonies. She also described Baran's statements implicating her as pure hearsay.

The high court said it disagreed with the lower court's ruling that Baran's testimony would only corroborate that of the witness, Modesto Cabador, who testified that he had heard Milagros asking his cousin, Antonio Cabador, about their (Milagros' and Antonio's) plan to kill Jun Valerio.

The high court said Modesto's testimony tended to establish that Milagros and suspect Antonio Cabador, who has confessed to the crime, had plotted the killing, and that Baran would supply the evidence that would prove that the two had carried out their sinister plan.

Jun Valerio was shot dead in front of his home in Diliman, Quezon City, at 12:30 in the morning of March 18, 2000. He was shot with an unlicensed .38 caliber revolver.

Milagros was subsequently charged with parricide, while Antonio Cabador, Jimenez, Baran and Quintana were charged with murder.

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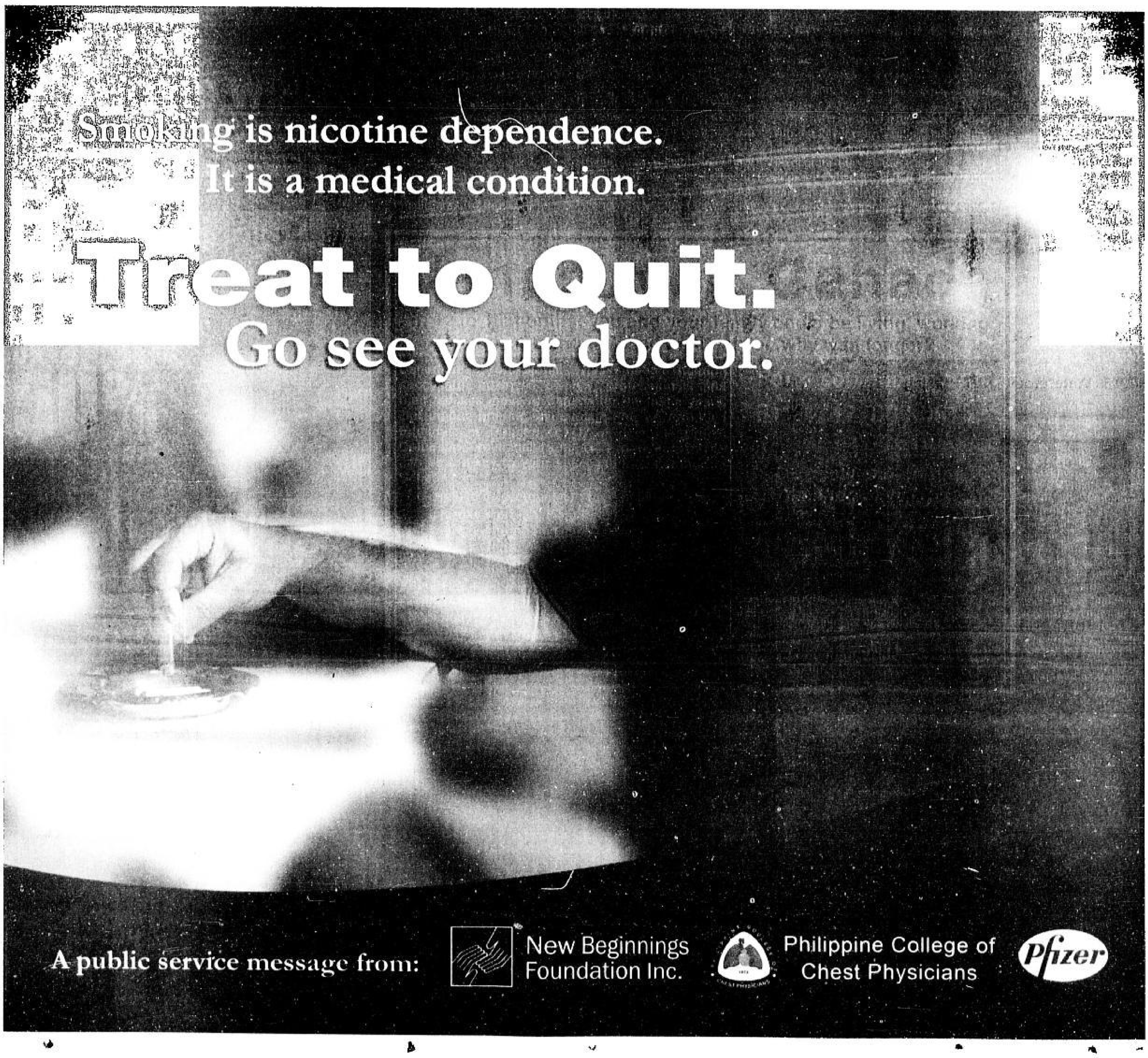
Meteor shower

BEGINNING EARLY today, meteors from the Orion constellation will be streaking across the sky, and will be visible in the eastern part of the sky, the weather bureau said yesterday.

The annual Orionids meteor shower is expected to peak on Oct. 21 and 22, at a maximum rate of 20 to 25 meteors per hour, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said.

"The best time to view it is midnight and onwards. They will be gradually increasing in number in the run-up to 21st," Dario dela Cruz, head of Pagasa astronomical observatory division, said in an interview. *TJ Burgonio*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Noli asks NHA to help railway folk

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE Castro has challenged the National Housing Authority (NHA) to work on improving the quality of life of the more than 8,000 railway families it has relocated to various resettlement areas of the government.

De Castro, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), made the statement during the 32nd founding anniversary of the NHA in Quezon City the other day.

He said the economic satisfaction of the relocated squatters was more important than housing statistics as far as the national relocation program was concerned.

"*Para sa akin, hindi ang* statistics *ang importante kundi ang mga ngiti sa mga nabigyan ng pabahay. Hindi* statistics *kundi* quality of life *ang hamon ko sa inyo,* (The quality of life, not statistics—that's what's important. This is my challenge to you)," De Castro said.

He said the NHA's job was not only to provide the homeless with security of tenure but also to establish vibrant communities for the relocatees.

NHA General Manager Federico Laxa has relocated a total of 8,446 railway families from October in 2006 to October this year.

De Castro noted that the NHA no longer encounters difficulties in dealing with affected families since many of them now volunteer to be relocated unlike in the past.

"Indeed, we are getting better and smarter," he said.

Now, it's Laguna solon's turn to bare bribe try

By Norman Bordadora

YESTERDAY, IT WAS LAGUNA REP. EDGAR SAN LUIS' turn to allege bribery in connection with an attempt to file a new impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

San Luis, who was put on the spot for signing what many of his colleagues claim is a lame, nuisance complaint that would immunize the President from a stronger suit in the future, now accuses one of his colleagues of offering him money to withdraw that endorsement.

He had denied he received any money for endorsing the controversial complaint of lawyer Roel Pulido. However, it became suspect after labor group representative Crispin Beltran claimed he was offered P2 million by a factotum of Arroyo's Kampi party to endorse the same complaint.

In an interview at his residence in Quezon City, San Luis told the INQUIRER that another congressman, described as a member of an administration party but who is allied with the opposition, told him that a group wanted him to withdraw his signature from the Pulido impeachment complaint.

The caller, he said, added that "there was something for me from the group."

"He called me around 9:30 a.m. on Thursday," said San Luis, but didn't specify what benefits he'd get if he withdrew his endorsement.

San Luis threw in another clue about the caller's identity: He is a godson of Speaker Jose de Venecia.

"I don't know who he was brokering for, if he was for doing so for De Venecia or Malacañang," said San Luis.

Thursday morning was the time Ms Arroyo had breakfast with almost 200 members of the administration coalition in the House. She later met with Speaker De Venecia and his deputy speakers also in Malacañang.

San Luis said 30 lawmakers have either approached him personally or called him on the phone to ask him to withdraw his endorsement. He said he could no longer remember all their names.

He added that he has also received death threats through phone calls and text messages.

"Some are obvious pranks but I'm not taking any chances," San Luis said.

San Luis said he believes he must have derailed the plans of factions in the administration when he endorsed the complaint.

The weak impeachment complaint will derail the filing of a more substantial complaint based on the ongoing congressional inquiry into allegations that resigned Commission of Elections chief Benjamin Abalos offered bribes to other government officials to railroad the multimillion dollar national broadband network (NBN) contract in favor of the Chinese ZTE Corp.

Corrections

IN THE OCT. 10 ISSUE, an article on Page A24—"Senate, Villar top SWS ratings"—misspelled the name of the Supreme Court Chief Justice. The correct spelling of the Chief Justice's name is Reynato—not Renato—Puno.

* * *

IN THE OCT. 13 ISSUE, a story on Page A4—"Estrada wants to stay longer near ailing ma in San Juan"—misstated the year when deposed President Joseph Estrada was placed under house arrest at his villa in Tanay, Rizal. Estrada was brought to Tanay in 2003—not 2001.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a Business article on Page B4—"Private equity company investing in savings bank"—contained an erroneous sentence that said the Majalco Group was a major shareholder in GMA Network and Liberty Flour Mills. The sentence should have read: "Malayan Bank's major shareholders include the Majalco Group and the respective major shareholders of GMA Network and Liberty Flour Mills."

* * *

IN THE OCT. 15 ISSUE, a front-page window carried an erroneous headline—"PhilHealth stops payment of claims for cataract surgery." In a circular, Philippine Health Insurance Corp. said that it would "discontinue the compensability of claims" only for cataract operations performed "during medical missions and other recruitment schemes for cataract surgery."

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a front-page article—"Deadly volcanos as tourist attractions"—misstated the number of persons killed in the 1991 Mount Pinatubo eruption. Less than 1,000—not more than 1,500—people died in the eruption. The same mistake appeared in the caption of the front-page photo accompanying the article.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, October 17, 2007
28th Week in Ordinary Time
Ignatius of Antioch

1st Reading: Rom 2:1-11
Gospel: Luke 11:42-46

Jesus said, "A curse is on you, Pharisees; for the Temple you give a tenth of all, including mint and rue and the other herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. This ought to be practiced, without neglecting the other. A curse is on you, Pharisees, for you love the best seats in the synagogues and to be greeted in the marketplace. A curse is on you for you are like tombstones of the dead which can hardly be seen; people don't notice them and make themselves unclean by stepping on them."

Then a teacher of the Law spoke up and said, "Master, when you speak like this, you insult us, too." And Jesus answered, "A curse is on you also, teachers of the Law. For you prepare unbearable burdens and load them on the people, while you yourselves don't move a finger to help them."

Commentary

We are all judged before God and should be careful of judging others because usually we are doing the same things we call them to account for. Are we hard and impenitent in our hearts? If the judgment of God was upon us today would we know God's honor for the good we have done, or would we be revealed for what we have done that is evil?

Jesus takes up his refrain: "Woe to you Pharisees who pay tithes on little things (herbs) and neglect justice and the love of God." These are what is essential to religion. Do we practice our religion so that others see and are impressed by our piety? And yet what are our hearts really like? Jesus insults them—the lawyers and anyone in a position of authority in liturgy and teaching. He is furious telling them that they lay burdens on others and do nothing to lighten their lives. What is Jesus saying to us today in our churches, communities?

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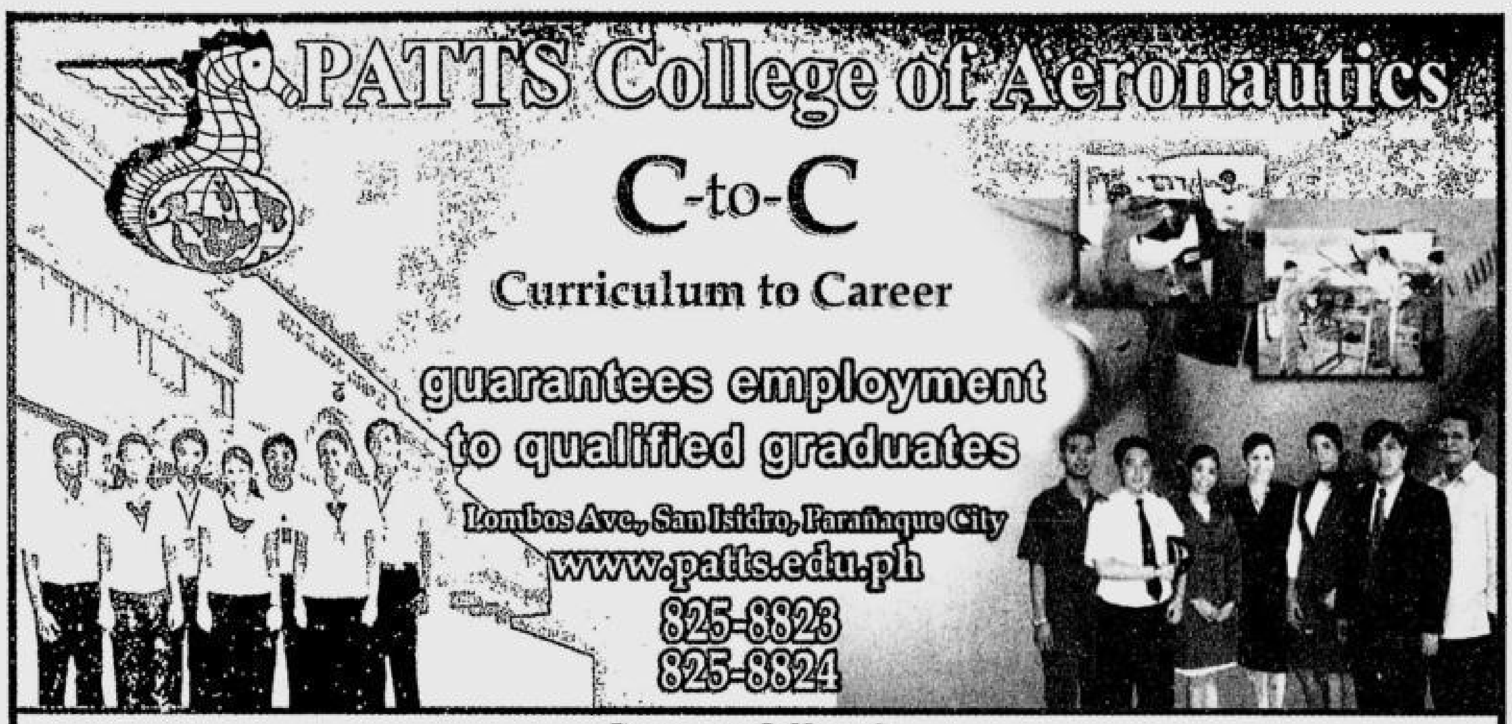
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Marines affected by latest political row

From page A1

"political squabbling" and instead focus on preserving peace and order.

The AFP conducts weekly Troop Information and Education (TINE) forum wherein troops are kept abreast of current events, among others.

"I have been making the rounds, telling officers and men that the Armed Forces of the Philippines should be apolitical at all times. We should be neutral because we are the only institution that is entrusted by society to maintain peace and order," Dolorfino said, likening the military to a "solid wall."

Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, AFP spokesperson, acknowledged that the troops were conscious of the media reports on the alleged bribery.

"The issue might be subject of informal discussions, but this will not have an impact on AFP operations. They remain focused on their job," Bacarro said in a text message to the INQUIRER.

No serious impact on Army

Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres, Philippine Army spokesperson, told the INQUIRER that the Army's officers and men were cognizant of the allegations in the media that Malacañang handed out bribes purportedly to allow President Macapagal-Arroyo to escape a fresh impeachment attempt.

"We're aware (of the issue) from what we see and hear in the media. But we don't feel any serious impact on the Army," Torres said in a phone interview.

Dolorfino said that not only would the "enemies of the state" benefit from another military uprising it would also most likely spark a "civil war."

'Let's not take a gamble'

"A civil war is not remote if the AFP gets involved. That is the main reason why we should remain solid and neutral at all times," Dolorfino said.

Asked why a military uprising this time could turn bloody, compared to the peaceful People Power Revolts in 1986 and 2001, Dolorfino replied: "Let's not take a gamble. The next time could lead to a civil war. It's difficult if people with guns are involved."

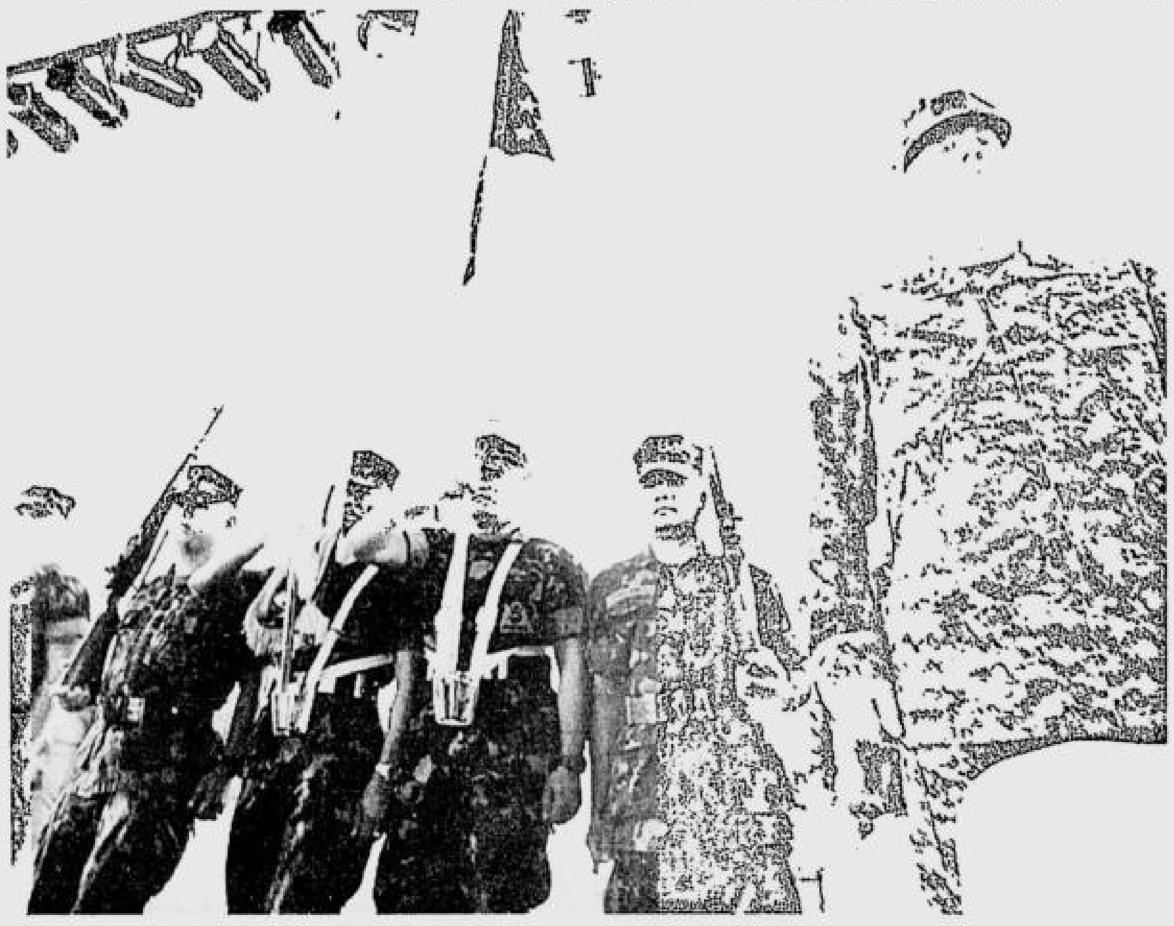
Dolorfino said that had then Marine commandant Brig. Gen. Artemio Tadiar not been a professional, there could have been a "bloody confrontation" during the 1986 Edsa Revolution that ousted the dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Tadiar led the Marine contingent with tanks and armored trucks but refused to fire at the thousands of people, including priests and nuns, that blocked its way to Camps Aguinaldo and Crame held by rebellious soldiers.

"It could have become a bloody confrontation between the progovernment and antigovernment forces so we cannot take chances as far as the use of military force is concerned," Dolorfino said.

MAJ. GEN. Benjamin Dolorfino, Philippine Marine commandant (left), and US Marine Col. John Meyer at the opening of RP-US training exercise. AP

A FILIPINO Marine honor guard holds a US flag at the start of two-week training exercise amid concern over impact on soldiers of alleged Malacañang payoffs to lawmakers and local officials. AP



PHILIPPINE honor guard at the US-Philippine Marines training program dubbed Phiblex remain focused despite nation's political woes. AP

Gossip more potent than truth, says study

From page A1

dence to the contrary.

Researchers, testing students using a computer game, also found gossip played an important role when people make decisions, according to Ralf Sommerfeld, an evolutionary biologist at the Max Planck Institute in Germany, who led the study.

"We show that gossip has a strong influence ... even when participants have access to the original information as well as gossip about the same information," the researchers wrote in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"Thus, it is evident that gossip has a strong manipulative potential."

To probe the role of gossip in this context, the researchers set up an experiment in which 126 undergraduate students engaged in a series of computer-based games with anonymous partners or adversaries.

The students were given a pot of 10 euros ($14) and allowed to choose whether to give their "partners" a fixed donation ($1.75), or withhold the money.

In later rounds, the players were given notes about the way their adversaries had behaved in previous rounds, and specifically whether they were generous or not.

No to misers

Students tended to give less money to people described as "nasty misers" or "scrooges" and more to those depicted as "generous players" or "social players," Sommerfeld said.

"People only saw the gossip, not the past decisions," he said in a telephone interview. "People really reacted to it."

The researchers then took the game a step further and showed the students the actual decisions people had made. But they also supplied false gossip that contradicted that evidence.

Surprisingly, in these cases, the students based their decisions to award money on the gossip, rather than the hard evidence, showing such information is a powerful tool, Sommerfeld said.

To hear is to believe

"Rationally, if you know what the people did, you should care, but they still listened to what others said," Sommerfeld said.

"They even reacted on it if they knew better."

Researchers have long used similar games to study how people cooperate and the impact of gossip in groups. Scientists define gossip as social information spread about a person who is not present, Sommerfeld said.

Damaging to reputations

In evolutionary terms, gossip can be an important tool for people to acquire information about others' reputations or navigate through social networks at work and in their everyday lives, the study said.

One example could be using gossip to learn that a potential mate had cheated on others, something which could make that person an undesirable match, Sommerfeld said. *Reports from Reuters and AFP*

RP once again part of US global posture

From page A1

"In place of traditional overseas bases with extensive infrastructure," Rumsfeld said, "we intend to use smaller forward operating bases with prepositioned equipment and rotational presence of personnel ... We will maintain a smaller forward-presence force in the Pacific while also stationing agile, expeditionary forces capable of rapid responses at our power projection bases."

The characteristics of the JSOFT-P fit this description. Modest and austere, the JSOTF-P has none of the extensive infrastructure and facilities of the former US bases in Subic and Clark. But with the availability of local logistics and other services assured, the free entry of ships and planes and the pre-positioning of equipment allowed, and with the new roads, ports, and other infrastructure the United States has been building in the area, the US Special Forces will be ready and able at a moment's notice to launch and sustain its operations in the region.

As evidenced by the fact that most Filipinos are not even aware of their presence and their actions, "the JSOTF had succeeded as a political mechanism for getting an American base-of-sorts up and running," according to Robert Kaplan, a prominent American journalist who has visited US military facilities around the world.

C.H. Briscoe, command historian of the US Army Special Operations Command, under which the units of the JSOTF-P belong, concurred: "*After more than 10 years, PaCom has reestablished an acceptable presence in the Philippines.*"

Strategically positioned between two routes at the entrance of a major sea-lane, the Makassar Strait, at the southwestern rim of the South China Sea and closer to Malaysia and Indonesia than most of the rest of the Philippines, the JSOTF-P, according to Briscoe, is "now better able to monitor the pulse of the region."

Having secured this presence, the United States has become closer to the Philippines with "the greatest potential to compete militarily" with it. By getting the United States "semi-permanently" based south of Luzon for the first time since World War II, Kaplan noted that "the larger-than-necessary base complex" in Zamboanga had delivered more than tactical benefits.

In the minds of the US Army strategists, Kaplan said: "Combating Islamic terrorism in this region [Southeast Asia] carried a secondary benefit for the United States: It positioned the US for the future containment of nearby China."

Qualitatively transformed

All of the steps discussed above have paved the way for the gradual and incremental reentry of the US military to the Philippines. At no time, since 1991, has US military presence been more entrenched.

At the same time, this US presence is no longer the same; it has been qualitatively transformed.

No longer are US troops permanently stationed and confined inside large bases in two locations in the country. Drawn instead from rotational forces, the troops have been deploying in various locations all over the country for exercises and other missions.

Instead of being massed in the thousands inside huge fortifications flying the US flag, American troops in the hundreds are dispersed and housed inside camps that technically belong to the Philippine military.

In the past, US troops could, despite the occasional deployment, expect to stay for long periods of time, stationed in the same base for years. Now, they are to be always ready and on the move, prepared to take part in shorter but more frequent deployments overseas.

Before, they stored their equipment, weapons, and supplies in huge storerooms and warehouses inside their base complex at all times, ready to lift and carry them wherever they went. Now, they are scattering and storing their equipment and supplies in various locations, guarded and maintained by host-nation governments or private companies, and ready to be picked up on the way to the fighting.

All these changes in the Philippines are driven by the overlapping goals of building up support for and countering domestic opposition to US presence while improving the agility and efficiency of the US military.

Trial balloons

But this too could change: For while large bases have their disadvantages, they also provide the guaranteed access, capacities, and other advantages that smaller, more austere bases cannot. Also, while the basing arrangements that the United States is developing now can be useful for certain scenarios, they may not be appropriate and sufficient for others.

In case of a long drawn-out standoff, for instance, it would take more than 500 Special Forces stationed in relatively simple bases to sustain US military operations.

Hence, given the right moment and given the need, if plans are not in fact afoot, the United States may still want to reestablish larger bases in the Philippines. Given US strategy and the Philippines' location, the possibility cannot be ruled out.

Indeed, frequent reports that the United States is trying to reestablish bases in the country have been characterized by an analyst with the Brookings Institute as "trial balloons" to test the atmosphere.

For the moment, however, it cannot be said that just because the United States does not have large bases of the kind it used to have, the superpower has not been securing its military objectives in the country.

Through the back door and largely out of sight, the United States has gradually but incrementally reintegrated the Philippines firmly within its "global posture."

All these may have effectively reversed that historic decision, taken 16 years ago, to end nearly a century of US military presence in the country.

(Herbert Docena [herbert@focusweb.org] is a researcher with Focus on the Global South, a policy research institute.)

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Opposition hopes pro-GMA solons will agree to investigate payoffs

From page A1

the outcome of the impeachment complaint in favor of the President and ensure grassroots support for her beleaguered administration."

It identified Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco and Pangasinan Rep. Rachel Arenas as among those who confirmed receiving money from Malacañang. It also mentioned at least two administration congressmen who confirmed receiving funds.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said Governors Eddie Panlilio of Pampanga and Joselito Mendoza of Bulacan should be summoned to testify in a Senate probe of alleged bribes given by Malacañang to local officials and congressmen last week.

"We need them to testify under oath what they told media and more. They may provide the impetus to the conscientious public officials who have knowledge of the bribery, especially those who have firsthand information on the sources of the funds given out," Lacson said in a text message to the INQUIRER.

Lacson had sought an inquiry into the alleged payoff in order to break the "omerta," or code of silence, that the Palace had imposed on Cabinet officials and military officers who have been threatened or rebuked into keeping their silence.

Central to the probe is whether the cash gifts came from public funds or private financiers.

Both Panlilio and Mendoza have admitted receiving P500,000 each after a meeting with the President in Malacañang last Thursday but they were unsure of where the funds came from.

The revelations came on the heels of reports that congressmen who met with the President on the same day were also handed out cash gifts and charges that a Kampi executive had offered P2 million to a few congressmen to support a bogus impeachment complaint.

"Whether they admit it or not that they received the cash gifts, it is our obligation to give them an opportunity to explain their side because their names have already been tainted," Sen. Francis Escudero said in a press conference.

A job for Ombudsman

But Escudero said he preferred that the matter be investigated first by the Office of the Ombudsman before the Senate holds its investigation which, he added, should be limited to fact-finding out of inter-chamber courtesy.

"It's the job of the Ombudsman to investigate this. The Ombudsman should not let this opportunity pass," he said.

Romblon Rep. Eleandro Madrona, chair of the committee on ethics, said his panel would be ready to conduct the inquiry once the House plenary refers the resolution to the committees in November.

"(The) alleged payoffs that happened in Malacañang on Oct. 11, 2007 tend to confirm such suspicions. On that same day, Speaker Jose de Venecia inhibited himself from acting on the complaint after which members of the majority immediately referred said complaint to the committee on justice," the resolution read.

It added that the referral of the complaint denied other House members to amend the weak complaint filed by lawyer Roel Pulido and endorsed by Laguna Rep. Edgar San Luis. The referral "automatically insulat(ed) the President from another impeachment complaint for a period of one year," it said.

"The changing of hands of such huge amounts of cash right after a meeting called by the President ... and the undue haste in which the impeachment complaint was acted upon is a cause for public concern," Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño said.

Resolution ensures probe

"The Speaker and the chair of the House committee on ethics have said this has to be investigated. But these are just words. With this resolution, we've made sure that they will act on the alleged bribery," Casiño said in a news conference yesterday.

PARTY-LIST Representatives Teddy Casiño of Bayan Muna and Luz Ilagan of Gabriela hold copy of resolution calling for an inquiry into claims of Malacañang payoffs. JOAN BONDOC

Arenas denies receiving payoff

REP. RACHEL ARENAS YESTERDAY denied she received money from Malacañang after President Macapagal-Arroyo met with lawmakers last week.

In a statement, Arenas said she arrived late in Malacañang and "was not privy to what happened during that meeting."

"I received a check from the House of Representatives covering my salary and district allowance for the month of October," said the neophyte representative of Pangasinan.

"I believe that it has been a tradition to receive these emoluments before any congressional break," she said.

Arenas stressed: "I strongly deny receiving any money from Malacañang."

Arenas was mentioned in an INQUIRER story on Monday as among the officials who admitted receiving money at the Palace following Ms Arroyo's meeting with congressmen. *Gabriel Cardinoza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

UNO plans genuine impeach case

By DJ Yap

THE UNITED OPPOSITION (UNO) yesterday announced that it would file a "real impeachment complaint" against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In an emergency meeting at the Makati City Hall, leaders of UNO said they would assemble a legal team to draft the complaint that would cite alleged irregularities in the broadband and Northrail deals with China and last week's claims of payoffs to lawmakers and local officials.

"We feel the public is entitled to read a real impeachment complaint, so the public can forget about the Pulido impeachment complaint," former Sen. Ernesto Maceda said, referring to one filed by lawyer Roel Pulido.

"The opposition has gone on record through its leaders in the House that the Pulido impeachment complaint is a sham," he said after the meeting called by UNO president Jejomar Binay, also the mayor of Makati City.

"This is a very beautiful situation for the minority since the administration is self-destructing," Maceda said, pointing to the infighting among Ms Arroyo's allies following the revelations of Speaker Jose de Venecia's son of overpricing and kickbacks.

Atienza: Malacañang gifts a normal thing

From page A1

purported distribution of money to lawmakers and local government officials last week was "really nothing extraordinary."

"As a mayor, I also received such financial aid," he told reporters. "The discretionary funds of Presidents are overflowing. Sharing this occasionally is a normal thing that I have personally experienced."

Atienza said the cash gifts were handed to local officials in Malacañang on special occasions, like the holiday season.

"On several occasions, the city of Manila benefited from such aid," he said, admitting that the gifts amounted to hundreds of thousands of pesos. "In one occasion, there was P100,000. In another, there was P200,000."

At other occasions, the recipients were given checks, he said.

Also other Presidents

Atienza stressed that he had received largesse not only from Ms Arroyo but also from her predecessors, Presidents Joseph Estrada and Fidel Ramos:

"I also received cash gifts at the Palace from different presidencies."

He said there was no cause for the public to raise a howl over the supposed distribution of money in Malacañang on Oct. 11.

Asked to comment on charges that the money was part of Palace efforts to quash a fresh impeachment complaint against the President, Atienza said: "That's a matter of one's opinion. In our time, there was crisis one after another.

"Was there a time that there was no crisis in the presidency? It's a continuing, never-ending litany of supposed sins. Any time you give those gifts, somebody will always say it's questionable. The impeachment is a Sword of Damocles hanging over the President's head all the time. So when is the right time?"

He echoed calls for officials who had received such cash gifts to come out in the open: "Why don't they come out and say, 'We've received gifts not only from President Arroyo, but also from President Estrada, President Ramos'?"

Discretionary fund

Atienza suggested that the public examine the discretionary fund of the President, and study how it is used.

"Discretionary funds, you can give any which way. That's the essence of the law, and the local government units also have discretionary funds," he said.

Atienza said that as mayor, he used the discretionary fund to finance Manila's projects.

"That's up to your discretion. If you're a wise local executive or a congressman, you'd use it for projects that would help your constituents," he said.

"As a local executive, I had my own discretionary fund. I can spend it on any need of the executive. I can give it away for PR purposes that will enhance office effectivity," he added.

In Malacañang, after attending a Cabinet meeting, Atienza said the cash given to local officials "officially ... comes from the discretionary fund [of the President]."

"And you also get it from other sources available to the President," he said, adding that it could come in "cash, sometimes official checks ... in different forms."

'You should be thankful'

Atienza did not comment on the propriety of disbursing government funds during an election period.

But he said: "It is normal for the national government [to help] local governments. As a mayor [of Manila], I myself had received help from the national government, so I can understand that."

According to Atienza, the money has no strings attached, but the recipients are expected to be "thankful."

"If you visit the President, you should be thankful if you're given help," he said.

He also said he was talking only about his "own personal experience" and thus could not comment on Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio's admission that he had received P500,000 in cash from Malacañang. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

Josh Groban promises high energy

From page A1

al Convention Center (PICC).

Tonight's show is strictly invitational. Those watching tomorrow's performance should be shelling out as much as P5,000 to P20,000 apiece.

MTV Philippines helped negotiate the Manila concerts. The Philippines is the only Asian country that Groban has visited thus far.

At the inauguration party, the invited guests came dressed in suits and formal attire. Groban turned up casually garbed in a striped T-shirt, blue jeans, black denim jacket and low-cut Converse sneakers. He was also unshaven.

The look seemed to reflect Groban's desire to shatter any resistance that people, especially those unfamiliar to his music, may still harbor against it.

Not classical

Though he personally refuses categorization, the music Groban has recorded in five best-selling albums since 2001 has been described in various instances as classical, easy listening, gospel and operatic pop.

Groban cares little about what critics call it. He has been quoted as saying: "I've never tried to make people believe that this was classical music ... it's pop music. I have a huge respect for opera, which is why I've never done opera. There will be a specific time and place if and when I decide to tackle something from that genre. In the meantime, I've just been experimenting and trying things that work for my voice."

Wearing blinders

In a quick exchange, Groban told the INQUIRER that his environment as a child helped spark his love for music.

"Growing up in Los Angeles, I was very fortunate that musical acts came around and ... my parents were great. [They] made sure I was exposed to live music when I was younger."

He recalled watching a stage musical when I was nine: "[There] I was in the audience ... getting chills and thinking to myself, 'If I could make people feel the way I feel right now with my voice one day, that's everything that I'd want to do.' From that age, I just felt I had music running through me and I had blinders on and that was all I wanted to do."

Collaborations

Groban's knack for collaborating with just about any artist he fancies continues in his latest album, "Awake" (Warner), which features the African male choral group Ladysmith Black Mambazo and veteran jazz keyboardist Herbie Hancock.

"I've learned a tremendous amount [and] I would love to continue to expand," he said. "There's a certain thing that I do very well. But working with [other] artists allows me to widen my sound and bring my fans on a whole new journey."

Beyond the CDs

Asked what Filipinos can expect to hear at the PICC shows, Groban remarked: "The concert will allow me to bring forth a part of myself that I can't get across on the CDs. It's high energy, it's a great celebration and, for me, a real retrospective of the last five years of my career."

In 1998, while studying musical theater in Michigan, Groban was introduced to Grammy-winning producer/arranger David Foster, who gave him jobs as rehearsal singer for several high-profile events.

At the 1999 Grammy Awards, he was a stand-in for renowned Italian singer Andreas Bocelli and got to rehearse "The Prayer" with Celine Dion.

More guest stints followed and, in one benefit show, Groban shared the stage with Elton John, Stevie Wonder, Don Henley and Robin Williams.

But it was a pivotal appearance as guest character in the television series "Alley McBeal"—in which he was made to sing—that paved the way for his entry into the recording and concert scenes.

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Leyte solon asks Sandigan to reverse graft conviction

By Jocelyn R. Uy

CONVICTED LEYTE REP. EUfrocino Codilla Sr. has asked the Sandiganbayan to overturn a decision finding him guilty of two counts of graft. Fourteen years ago, Codilla, who was then mayor of Ormoc City, had approved the business permit of his own company.

In his motion for consideration, he said the court had erred in convicting him because the issuance of a permit was a ministerial duty and not part of his discretionary power as mayor.

The antigraft court's Fifth Division sentenced him to a maximum of 18 years in prison for violating the antigraft law but acquitted him on two counts of violation of the code of conduct and ethical standards for public officials and employees due to insufficiency of evidence.

Court records showed that Codilla approved, for two consecutive years, the application for gravel and sand permits of Codilla Enterprises, of which he was the registered proprietor.

Lawyers Paulino del Socorro and Edgar Gica said the elements of graft were not present in the case as Codilla had no intent to benefit from the issuance of the permits.

They added that the court committed a "serious error" when it failed to consider that the indictments did not state the acts of omissions which constituted the graft offense, thus, violating Codilla's right to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusations against him.

"There is no single indication in the information that would lead us to believe that he can be held guilty of directly or indirectly having financial or pecuniary interest in any business or transaction," the lawyers stated in the petition.

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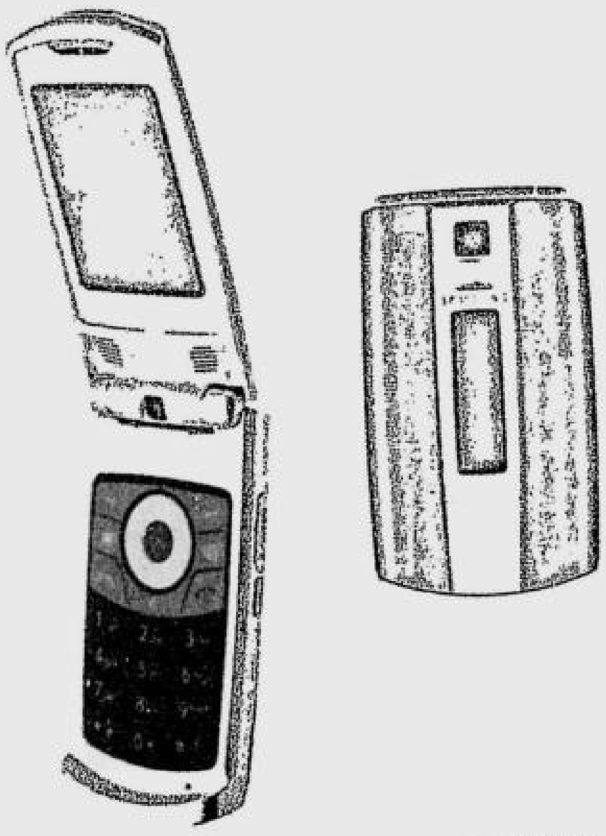

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Holy innocent

EDITORIAL

THREE INTERTWINED STATEMENTS MAKE UP the unholy trinity of this administration: "They are all the same, anyway"; "It is all a numbers' game"; and "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone." All three combine to create a defense for the actions of the mercenaries and their paymasters who are periodically mobilized in defense of a President who worships at the altar of impunity.

When that paper bag was handed over to Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio, it was as if that unholy trinity of arguments was hovering over him, poised to pierce his integrity with any one of its three sharp points. He would never have recovered from maintaining a conspiratorial silence. That he spoke up was his redemption because it disproved that dark trinity of arguments, point by point.

Let us set aside his account of his agonizing over whether or not to even accept the money, or what to do with it; that was not unique, people wrestle with that dilemma all the time. Let us focus on his decision to bear witness to what transpired, and his inspiring, in turn, politicians to bear witness for him. That was his positive contribution, a stark demonstration that truth-telling is a means for achieving redemption. For himself and others.

A saint is said to have counseled that it is preferable for bishops to be wise rather than holy. There is a long tradition of "holy fools," innocent and naïve, incapable of responsibility and therefore incapable of sin: child-like, and therefore, like children, one of the holy innocents. But a child-like faith is not enough when handling the grave responsibilities of governance: a bishop after all is to Catholics what a governor is to a secular nation—not just a pastor, but the chief executive for a territorial jurisdiction.

By training and inclination, Panlilio is a parish priest, a minor administrator whose administrative skills were always subordinated to his pastoral mission, a shepherd first and always and a paper-pusher last of all. A pastor is bound by divine law. The politician's actions, on the other hand, are permanently circumscribed by secular law. When the politician tries to be a pastor, the law becomes an obstacle to the higher purpose, but that is what the law is precisely supposed to prevent. The politician, being a public servant, is not meant to have the discretion pastors possess of invoking a higher law than the laws of man.

This is what was so dangerous, so potentially fatal, not just politically but morally, about the position Panlilio was placed when he was handed that paper bag. The priest in him has been trained not to ask whether the money he received was the forbidden fruit of mercenary governance, not least because he has been trained to be obedient to the hierarchy. The governor who did not stop to impute evil motives to his being handed cash in Malacañang Palace is the same Father Panlilio who wouldn't have questioned his being handed cash in a bishop's palace.

And there lies the problem. The fundamental assumptions and orientation of a pastor must eventually be at odds with those of the practicing politician, even if of a reformist bent. The law mandates that no public money changes hands without receipts, and that no official receives or dispenses funds, without leaving behind an auditable paper trail. There is no higher law, no greater purpose, no mitigating factor in the absence of the concrete circumstances that should surround any handing of public funds.

Had Panlilio not spoken up, the chorus would have begun with small, scornful voices reaching a crescendo of hypocritical condemnation: See, he is just like us. See, he is just another centurion in our legions. See, the priest has sinned so he cannot cast the first stone.

Bishop John Nienstedt of Minnesota said in his homily at his installation Mass that religion "is not simply a numbers game, a mere program of recruitment." No firmer dividing line between the attitudes of pastors and that of President Macapagal-Arroyo can be found. Panlilio has shown fidelity to the truth. The lesson here is that he must also show fidelity to the law. He must return the money and, if necessary, leave it at the President's front door. It was never hers to dispense or Panlilio's to receive.

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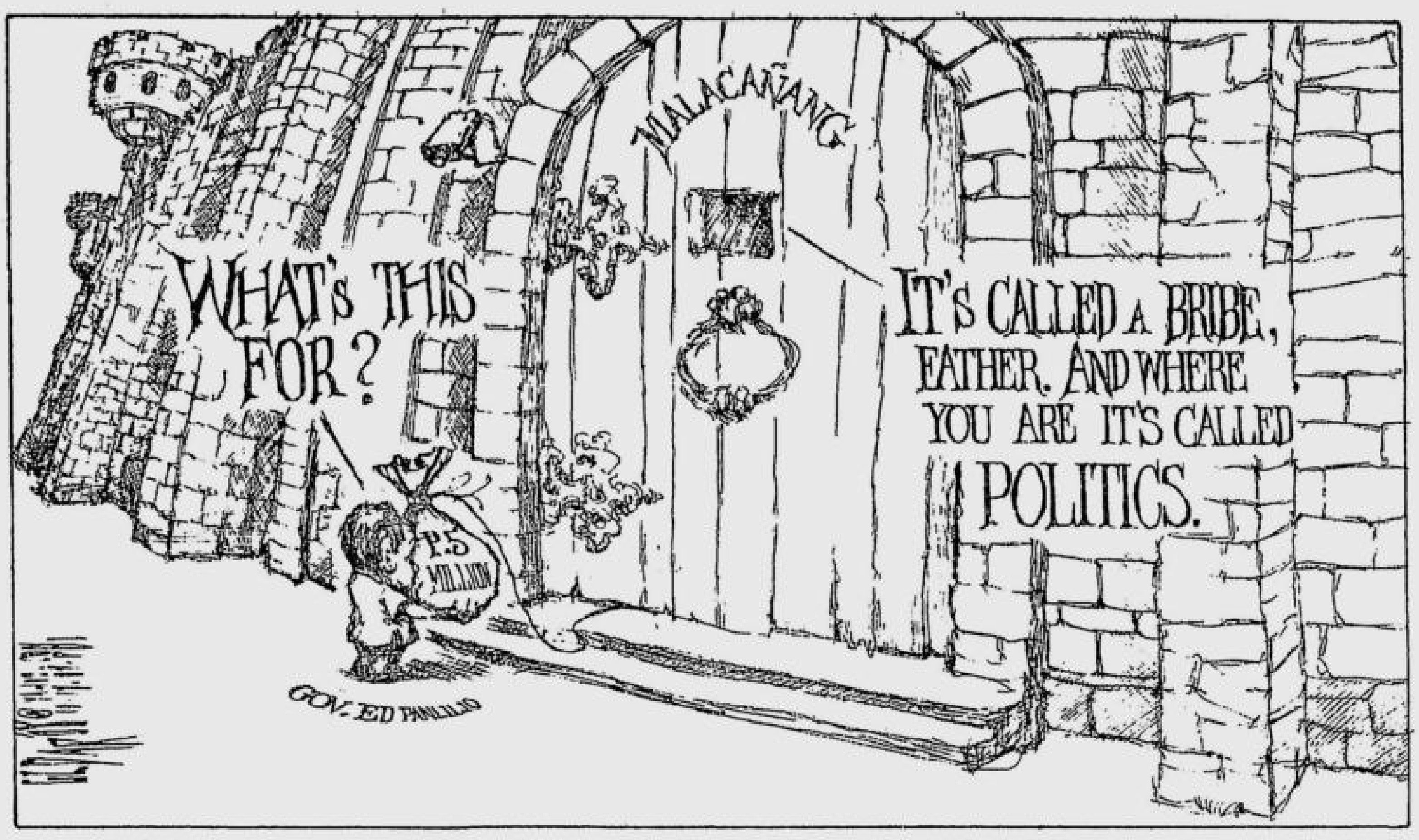
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5 letters behind fight over Metro's waste

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

TIMES HAVE REALLY CHANGED. BEFORE, when you threw Metro Manila's garbage into a neighboring municipality's territory, officials and citizens of that municipality considered it an insult. "Not in our property," they said, and they put up blockades to prevent garbage trucks from entering. Now, these same people fight to have other people's garbage dumped into their territory, never mind the stench and the flies.

What happened? Why the sudden change of heart?

The reason is one word with five letters: MONEY. What they say is true: There is money in garbage, lots of it. Millions of pesos for the contractors who haul the garbage, millions more for the government officials who determine who collects the garbage, and still more millions to those who accept the garbage.

Do you know that the operator of the 14-ha landfill in Montalban (its new name is Rodriguez) grosses more than P400 million a year? And that the municipal government of Montalban earns P150 million a year in garbage fees alone, almost half of its total income?

Only a few years ago, when the Aquino administration put up its first garbage dump in San Mateo, Rizal, to relieve a garbage crisis in Metro Manila, there was hell to pay from its citizens and from those of neighboring Antipolo where garbage trucks had to pass. They opposed the dump in their neighborhoods.

When the dump was filled up, there was another garbage crisis in Metro Manila and the different local government units resorted to guerrilla tactics: Where to dump the trash was left to the contractors, to each his own garbage dump. And so trash was thrown in isolated creeks and streams, vacant lots with or without the permission of the owners, etc. This is still going on.

It was Montalban Mayor Pedro Cuerpo who realized that his poor farming town can earn a lot of money by hosting Metro Manila's waste. He decided to put up a sanitary landfill in a former quarry site. The Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), which is responsible for disposing of the garbage, was happy with Cuerpo's decision but his own citizens at first doubted the wisdom of his decision.

Cuerpo hired a contractor to develop the landfill and to operate it with the lion's share of the fees going to him. The MMDA paid them a fixed amount for every truckload of garbage dumped there. Considering the enormous amount of waste that Metro Manila produces, the dump earned almost P600 million yearly from it, more than P400 million to the contractor/operator and P150 million to the Montalban government.

The contractor also had foresight. It bought the surrounding raw land very cheap, with the intention of turning them later into future dumps and veritable gold mines when the original landfill is filled up.

Montalban's windfall attracted the covetous eyes of Rizal provincial officials. The provincial government doesn't get a share of Montalban's garbage fees and its officials began to think that this is unfair. The province has supervision over its municipalities and therefore should get a share of the latter's income, and for Montalban to keep for itself all the income from the dump is not fair.

So when the contractor developed an adjacent 19-ha dump for the provincial government alone, the governor and the Sangguniang Panlalawigan liked it. (It is not certain whose idea it was, the contractor's or the provincial officials'.)

But the Cuerpo landfill is taking a long time to fill up. As of this writing, it still has two years and two months to go. The new dump cannot start to operate until the original is phased out. Meanwhile, all those dumping fees being paid for truckloads of garbage are slipping through the fingers of the provincial government. *Sayang*! After two years and two months, less than a year would be left of the term of Gov. Casimiro A. Ynares III. The new dump has to start to earn for the provincial government while Ynares still has two-and-a-half years to go.

So the Sangguniang Panlalawigan passed a resolution and the governor issued an order closing the Cuerpo landfill and opening the new (for convenience, let's call it the Ynares) dump. And that's how and why the current quarrel over Metro Manila's garbage started. They are fighting over dirty, smelly waste. Isn't that a crying shame?

* * *

Here's a warning to users of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). Buy your LPG only from authorized dealers of the oil companies. A number of unscrupulous dealers have been found to be illegally refilling and underfilling LPG cylinders and passing them off as legitimate.

The Court of Appeals recently supported the decision of the Chief State Prosecutor's Office to reinstate the criminal charges against Omni Gas Corp. for illegal practices under Batas Pambansa 33. The Court of Appeals reversed the ruling of the Department of Justice (DOJ) withdrawing the charges against Omni. It said "the DOJ committed grave abuse of authority in ruling in favor of Omni and usurped the authority of the Department of Energy (DOE) which oversees the LPG industry.

The charges against Omni were filed after surveillance by the National Bureau of Investigation in 2004 upon complaint of legitimate LPG dealers associations from Petron, Shell and Total.

The DOE has intensified efforts to protect consumers from illegal practices. Recently, it raided three LPG refilling plants owned by Northern Gas Corp., Capitol Allied Trading and Pinnacle Gas Corp. Criminal charges have been filed against them. Violations included under-filling, substandard cylinders, no safety seals, no fire safety inspection, etc.

O Inday

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I READ WITH MUCH INTEREST ALFREDO Montilla's complaint about the Inday jokes last Monday in our Letters section. Montilla doesn't find the jokes funny and has begged friends in the Philippines to refrain from sending them out to other people, particularly those living abroad. "The trouble is, our educational system and society as a whole did not teach us the 'dignity of labor.' In Toronto where I am working as a teacher, kids are taught how to value manual jobs… At a very young age, they are taught that every job is important."

Before that, last week, I read as well the reactions of KMU and the Visayas Forum Foundation to the Inday jokes. They too found the jokes offensive. "These jokes are reflective of the longstanding low regard for our domestic workers… Is it really unusual and amusing when domestic workers are portrayed as smart? Are maids that inconsequential and incapable of any intelligent discussion?"

Quite honestly, I don't know where these reactions are coming from. I myself have gotten the jokes in text messages and seen them in blogs, and see nothing offensive in them. For those who have not heard of Inday, she is the maid who seems to be smarter than her *amo*, as evidenced by her erudite or convoluted (you are not always sure which) replies to questions.

For example, asked why trash litters the backyard, she answers: "A change in the weather pattern might have occurred, wreaking havoc on the surroundings. The way the debris is scattered suggests that a northerly gust of wind caused damage along its path." Again asked why Jun-Jun developed rashes, she answers: "Allergens triggered the immune response, increasing circulation in the site and promoting redness."

I see nothing particularly offensive in them, but I see nothing exceptionally funny in them either. Frankly, I thought the jokes would die a natural death since there are limits to the drollness of a maid talking professorially. How far can you go before you milk the concept dry? But for some reason (culture truly moves in mysterious ways), Inday has become a phenomenon of sorts, taking a life of its own. Last I heard, her *amo* has started talking the same way—*nahawa*, as they say. I wouldn't be surprised if Inday lands in a sitcom as a minor or major character, depending on how big she becomes.

What to make of this?

Well, first off, Inday's character is not entirely new or original. Unless I'm mistaken, there used to be a character in an old sitcom called "Kwentong Barbero" named Atorni Agaton, whose lawyerly credentials were suspect but who spoke in the same erudite or convoluted style as Inday, though more along the lines of legal jargon. As far as I know, too, scientists (particularly the social variety), academics, bureaucrats and civil society or NGO representatives (the "development set," as someone called them in a poem) have lent themselves to parody and satire, though more consciously or deliberately than in Inday's case.

As far as maids being smarter than their masters are concerned, well, that too isn't new and original. Britain has the quintessential Jeeves, a valet whose smarts have proved invaluable to his young master Bertie. Originally appearing in book form, Jeeves has gone on to appear on TV and even in the movies. Jeeves is funny, and like most things that are funny offers much truth in the form of a wicked commentary on prewar class-conscious British society. Inday, at least in her present form, is at best only mildly amusing. But who knows? Maybe she can morph into a Jeeves-like character, a reversal of roles that offers acute glimpses into the foibles of Philippine society.

I myself suspect the longevity, and indeed growing popularity of the Inday jokes, owes to something deeper, which has little to do with putting down maids or showing an aversion to manual labor. It's probably a way of making light of our current plight, the better to be able to deal with it.

That current plight is easily seen in the OFWs, many of whom are overqualified for their jobs. The character of Inday could very well be a Filipino nurse in a hospital in New York and Toronto knowing as much as, if not more than, his boss. A situational comedy certainly can be made on the strength of that premise. But quite apart from that, a Filipino domestic is not beyond finding herself in that situation in a foreign domicile. After all, that Filipino maid is probably a college graduate of some Philippine university—more so today than yesterday, skilled labor crowding out the unskilled one in the foreign markets. Parody and satire are naturally exaggeration, so the Filipino maid gets to be depicted as more educated, or indeed erudite, than her employer.

But you don't even have to look at the OFWs to see that plight of the Filipino today. You need only look at the fate of today's college graduates, many of whom settle for jobs as minor clerks and even messengers. Times being hard and joblessness rife, the motto is, stop complaining and love your job. At least while waiting for a reply to your application to work abroad. None of it is to disparage janitors or *labanderas* or manual labor as a whole. All of it is to rue the utter waste we make of potential talent. Inday need not be a maid, she—or he—could easily be an MA graduate frying French fries (ah, but how the French hate that attribution) in some hamburger joint, telling his *bisor* that the reason the fries got burnt to a crisp was that a sudden precipitation from an electric fan caused the stove to become more incendiary leading to the potato strips being robbed of their nutritive essences.

You know what they say: If the Filipino can no longer laugh, he will go berserk. Well, maybe it's time to go berserk….

Where did all that money come from?

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

LAST THURSDAY, MALACAÑANG PALACE RESEMBLED a feeding trough of a piggery farm when 190 congressmen and 48 provincial governors assembled to receive cash gifts, ranging from P200,000 to P500,000 each, for what purpose it is unclear.

The crisp peso bills neatly bundled in brown envelopes were distributed to the beneficiaries on three occasions in a single day: the first after congressmen had breakfast with President Macapagal-Arroyo; the second, with governors and mayors after the oath-taking of the new officers of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap); and the third during a meeting in the evening "for those who failed to attend the breakfast," according to one congressman. The venue for the distribution was variously reported as the Music Room and Heroes Hall. That so much space was needed illustrated the size of the stampede for the feeding trough.

Heroes Hall is the place where the President hosts very important state functions, but last Thursday, it was not an assemblage of heroes that crowded it. In this country, heroes are not rewarded with cash; they are either executed by firing squad or assassinated.

At the end of the day, roughly P120 million was believed to have changed hands. It was unclear where the money came from, whether it came from the public treasury or private wealth. This makes it difficult for anyone to denounce the gift-giving as malversation of public funds or to pin down any official for dipping his or her hands in the public till to achieve certain political objectives.

The distribution was so quick that, according to some beneficiaries who admitted to receiving the envelopes, all they recall is that the envelopes were handed to them by a "female staff" in the Palace, whose name they didn't care to know well enough to remember as they filed out of the breakfast room. Nothing is clear about the purpose of the gift-giving. No one told them whether the cash was in exchange for something, although suspicion of the motive was fueled by the circumstance that the meetings were held in the midst of the effort to push a new impeachment complaint, that was seen to be mortally flawed, against the President, so that it could be butchered in the House of Representatives. Everything was implied.

Certain facts have been established and are verifiable:

1. A few congressmen and governors have admitted to receiving money, but each gave different reasons to justify it.

2. No documents were signed. Thus, there is no smoking gun. Government auditing rules are strict in requiring accounting for every centavo of taxpayers' money disbursed.

3. The President was hardly visible, showing herself only as a gracious breakfast host and witnessing the oath-taking of the officers of the Ulap.

4. It is the reasons given to rationalize receiving the gifts that reveal the attitudes of elected officials toward the distribution of largesse either sourced from public funds or private wealth.

5. Administration officials muddled the sources of the fund.

Among those who admitted accepting money, Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco said he received P200,000 in cash but did not consider it as a bribe. He said it was a "usual Christmas gift" to congressmen at this time of the year. He didn't tie it to the impeachment complaint, whose dismissal would give the President immunity from another impeachment complaint for a year. Cuenco dismissed P200,000 as "small cash."

Other congressmen said the money came with a promise that their pork barrel entitlements of P75 million to P150 million would be released soon. Another congressman said the money came from the budget of the House and from the funds of Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Three of the 48 governors who attended the meeting admitted to receiving money. Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio showed on TV the bundle of P500,000. He said he took the money, believing he could use it for community projects, and would return the money to Malacañang "if it was given as a bribe." He claimed he took the money "in good faith."

Bulacan Gov. Joselito Mendoza said a female Palace staff member handed him the paper bags containing money and told him, "These are for your community-based projects. Kindly hand the other one to Among Ed (Panlilio)."

Another governor, Emilio Macias of Negros Oriental, said he received P200,000 and understood it was intended for the Oct. 29 meeting of governors for the launch of the integrated tax collection system. It was handed to him by a staff member of the governors' league.

But Gov. Ben Evardone, Ulap secretary general, said the Malacañang meeting actually discussed the new impeachment complaint and it was agreed that it should be thrown out.

Palace officials added to the muddle over the source of the funds, and washed their hands of the clumsy handling of the handouts. Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno passed the buck to Ulap. They should do the explaining, he said. "I don't know where the funds came from. That's an Ulap thing. Ulap has its own funds."

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. said the handout had nothing to do with the barangay elections on Oct. 29. He said the President could not just give money to government officials, because it is "illegal," and there is a ban on giving money to local officials for election spending during the 45-day poll period.

Andaya said the Department of Budget and Management did not release money that day (Oct. 11). He said he was not in the Palace when the envelopes and bags were distributed. Asked whether private money was used, Andaya said, "I have no knowledge of that."

The source of the money demands an explanation. The demand cannot be ignored.

Not just the food we eat

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ALTHOUGH GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS or GMOs draw the most attention and controversy, biotechnology is more than just about "Frankenfoods," as some activists have dubbed GMOs. Dealing with the building blocks of life, modern biotechnology is also about health and disease, energy and alternative fuels, agricultural applications, as well as environmental protection.

An example is the work of Dr. Nina Halos, research director of the Biotechnology Coalition of the Philippines, on the use of DNA analysis in the justice system. "It all began in 1994 with a ruling by the Supreme Court that said, essentially, that DNA analysis could not be used in court as evidence," recalls Dr. Halos. With funding from the Office of the President, during the Estrada administration, adds Dr. Halos, she and some colleagues helped set up the DNA Analysis Laboratory at the UP Natural Sciences Research Institute. The team worked for years to "set up a system to ensure the accuracy and integrity of our findings."

With the protocols in place, the team then wrote to the Supreme Court, asking the justices to reconsider their position regarding DNA evidence. In 2005, Dr. Halos testified in a statutory rape case and, using the findings of their DNA analysis, managed to prove that the accused was not guilty. Her testimony not only helped free a wrongly accused man, it also helped institutionalize DNA analysis for use in court.

Since then, the lab, with help from a grant given by the World Bank, has established protocols for the gathering of evidence in sexual abuse cases, particularly in cases of child abuse. Some 40 cases have since been assisted by the lab. Meantime, Dr. Halos has been busy giving lectures to law enforcement agencies and crime laboratories on crime-scene preservation and the proper handling of evidence. Thanks in part to her, "CSI" is no longer just a TV show, but a reality for Filipinos.

* * *

DR. Nina Gloriani-Barzaga, president of BCP, is involved in a different, but equally exciting field of biotechnology. Her current field of research is explained in an article with the intriguing title "Vaccine Cuisine: A Menu for the Community."

Dr. Barzaga is working on the development of "edible vaccines," genetically modified crops which have been altered to provide immunity against certain diseases to everyone who consumes them. At the moment, Dr. Barzaga is working on the development of GM tomatoes which can provide immunity against rabies, a common disease in the Philippines. Any Filipino suspected of having contracted rabies (after being bitten by a rabid dog or any other animal) now has to undergo 14 painful (and expensive) injections. The anti-rabies tomatoes, once they become publicly available, will cost just 10 percent of the expense of the anti-rabies shots.

Other experiments involve the development of a potato that prevents so-called travelers' diarrhea, rice vaccine against measles, and bananas and tomatoes that prevent typhoid fever.

Using fruits and vegetables as vaccines may seem quite a technological leap, but it does answer numerous problems faced in traditional injectable or oral vaccines. One of these is the need to maintain the "cold chain," which makes it necessary to store vaccines in refrigerators that presents serious logistical problems in remote areas. By making vaccines available in common foodstuffs, scientists would thus be saving more lives and creating healthier societies.

* * *

ONE big issue between advocates and practitioners of biotechnology on one hand, and their critics on the other, concerns food labeling.

Critics contend that consumers have the right to know whether the food they are eating has been genetically modified. For instance, when BCP officers told me that most commercial cheese have been genetically modified since the 1980s, I felt my stomach churning. I may not know exactly how GM cheese has been altered, and it probably has not caused much harm, given how much cheese I've eaten through the years, but I would have wanted to know, at least, that I was ingesting a GMO. After all, it has been argued, if proponents of GMOs are so sure that these are safe for human consumption, then they should have no qualms about labeling GMOs as GMOs.

"Unfortunately, while the questions seem simple, the issue is not, especially if the starting point of labeling includes the process rather than the final product," says a pro-biotechnology pamphlet.

Food safety and labeling standards and regulations have already been adopted in countries like the United States and Canada, the European Union and United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand, Japan and South Korea. Some governments place emphasis on allergens and other health concerns. Others set a minimum amount of GM material in food, beyond which the manufacturer has to label the product as a GMO. In the EU, regulations require that "products intentionally containing GM ingredients must always be labeled, whatever the level of content."

I'm not sure if the Philippines already has labeling standards and regulations in place, although biotechnology products currently must pass muster through the National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines (NCBP).

* * *

WHILE experts and activists debate the need for labeling information, consumers on the other hand must make their sentiments felt. What is the use of GMO labeling, after all, if consumers don't even know what they are reading, if they bother to read food labels at all.

We all believe in freedom of choice, but real, meaningful choices exist only when backed up by full and proper information. We may never fully know whether and to what extent the food we buy and eat have been genetically modified, but we can start by asking the right questions.

Division

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

ON THE WAY TO THE VENUE OF MY LECTURE at the Philippine Center in downtown San Francisco, I saw people preparing placards for a rally to protest the so-called "racial slur" against Filipino doctors in a recent episode of "Desperate Housewives." While the television network ABC has issued an apology and offered to delete the offending (or offensive) line from future re-runs and the DVD version, some people just don't know when to stop and are actually considering other forms of protest, like a lawsuit or a boycott of sponsors for the show. I don't know how many attended the rally, but the hastily made placards and flyers were used to picket the Disney store simply because the Mickey Mouse company has a stake in "Desperate Housewives." We are probably overacting on this issue because one would think that if this show of solidarity is around 24/7, then Filipinos would be a strong and visible force in American life.

If Filipinos can be united longer than it takes for Manny Pacquiao to bring the opponent down, perhaps there is hope for the future. I agree with those who believe that the energy expended on "Desperate Housewives" should have been focused on more pressing issues that confront Filipinos in America, like immigration, dual citizenship, or recognition of Filipino veterans who fought during World War II. This is yet another example of how Filipino emotional energy is misused to generate heat rather than illumination.

During the Bayanihan workshops organized by the Commission of Filipinos Overseas, I heard presentations suggesting ways to bring expatriate Filipinos closer to each other. I wondered if this was feasible or even possible, knowing that there are over 6,000 Filipino-American associations or societies established around the United States. Filipinos are like amoeba, they form groups that tend to split and multiply rather than gather as one. Fortunately, there is now the National Federation of Filipino-American Associations.

It was quite amusing to locate it on the Internet because when I typed in the acronym "NFFA" on Google, the other results generated were: Nepal Freight Forwarders Association, Niagara Frontier Folklore Archives, National Foam Fighting Alliance, and the National Frozen Food Association, now the National Frozen and Refrigerated Food Association. When I finally found the website of the National Federation of Filipino-American Associations, I saw that its members were grouped according to geographic location, but taken individually, one could see that some groups were based on the universities or schools attended by members back in the Philippines, thus there was the University of the Philippines Alumni Association, the Philippine Women's University Alumni Association, and the Ateneo Alumni Association that not only have US chapters but often are further broken down depending on location or even cultural interests, like the UP Alumni and Friends Rondalla. Others are grouped around branches of international socio-civic or religious associations like the following: Knights of Rizal, Knights of Columbus, Masonic Lodges, Rotary and Lions Clubs. Some groups form around professions or leisure activities, hence the Philippine Nurses Association, Philippine Nurses Association of New Jersey Inc., Philippine Medical Society of Greater Philadelphia, Pinoy Golfers Club of Arizona and Filipino-American Golf Association.

Then, of course, we have the Filipino-American Veterans Organization, American Coalition for Filipino Veterans or even FILVETS (which might even cover Filipino veterinarians?). Other groups working for veterans' rights are Bataan & Corregidor Survivors Association & their Families (BCSA&TF), Seattle; Ernsto R. Batongmalaque Foundation, Inc. (ERBF), Los Angeles; Filipino American Democrats of South New Jersey; Filipino American Republicans of Virginia (FARV); Filipino American Service Group Inc. (FASGI), Los Angeles, CA; Fil-Am Veterans Society Inc. of Jacksonville, Florida (FASI); Filipino American Veterans of Hampton Roads (FAVHR), VA; Filipino American Veterans & Families Inc (FAFVI), San Francisco, CA; Filipino Civil Rights Advocates (FilCRA); Filipino War Veterans of Washington (FWVW), Seattle; Filipino World War II Veterans Federation of San Diego County; National Association of Sons & Daughters of FilAm World War II Veterans USA; and the Veterans Federation of the Philippines (VFP).

Some groups have creative acronyms such as: Student Action for Veterans Equity (SAVE); Filipino Intercollegiate Networking Dialogue (FIND); Filipino American Network (FAN); and Filipino-American Coalition of Environmental Solidarity (FACES).

More interesting are the groupings drawn along ethno-lingustic or geographical origins back home, like the following: Apalitenos, Bohol Association, Cavite Association, Cavite Professional Association, Confederation of Boholanos USA, Ilocano Mission Group, Iloilo Society of America, San Nicolanians, and Pangasinan Womens Club of Texas.

I'm not a sociologist, so I don't know the answer to the question: What is it in our nature that makes expatriate Filipinos divide rather unite? The answer will come in handy not just abroad but back home where every day is an exercise in forming a nation.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Anniversaries

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

IT HAS BEEN 10 YEARS SINCE I BEGAN WRITING THIS column, the first one coming out in May 1997. At two columns a week, that adds up to more than a thousand over the decade, and every now and then I get pushed and prodded about compiling them into books, but there just isn't enough time for that.

I did think of reflecting on the 10 years of writing, but I didn't want to end up sounding like one of those self-absorbed blogs, so let me move on and write about two other anniversaries, not quite my own, but still having some kind of impact on my life. Both are 50th anniversaries, golden ones, taking place in two countries that are worlds apart, each still wary of the other. And caught in between the two was the rest of the world, including the Philippines, which somehow was touched by the events whose anniversaries we now mark.

'West Side Story'

The first golden anniversary I wanted to tackle was that of "West Side Story," which first went on Broadway on Sept. 26, 1957. Leonard Bernstein was the composer and Stephen Sondheim, still in his 20s then, did the lyrics. "West Side Story" is a modern adaptation of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," this time set in New York City's rough west side area. Instead of two feuding families, the play looks at two gangs, the Jets, composed of Caucasian Catholic kids, and the Sharks, which is Puerto Rican. As in "Romeo and Juliet," love blossoms between a man and a woman from the rival gangs, with a tragic ending.

National Public Radio, which is the American community-supported radio system, featured the Broadway play prominently, including retrospective reviews of the play and interviews with those involved in the 1957 production. Apparently, "West Side Story" is considered a breakthrough for many reasons. The lyrics and the choreography have been described as "cinematic," with qualities we now take for granted in modern theater: quick action, catchy tunes, moving but simple lyrics. Yet, the play was not easy to produce. With Bernstein and Sondheim composing, the songs were actually hard to sing, and the choreography, which tried to capture gang movements, including the rumbles, was grueling.

Yet today people still hum its many songs, often not knowing where they came from. That happened with me last month when I had some mood piano music playing on the radio and I knew I'd heard the song before. Suddenly the lyrics came around: "peace and quiet and sun and air . . . wait for us. . ." It was the song from "West Side Story's" dying scene.

Besides the production aspects, "West Side Story" was pioneering because it dared to tackle a contemporary social issue, and a sensitive one at that. The play touched on issues of racial discrimination, as well as problems around the rebellious "teenager." Yet, the play had to comply with the standards of the times, like no cuss words in theater—so a whole play on gang wars went without a single four-letter word!

The play first received lukewarm reviews, until Hollywood caught on and did a movie version in 1961, which many older Filipinos will remember with Natalie Wood in the lead role. Hollywood was still living in an age of stereotypes and they had all the Sharks gang members using muddy makeup to make them "look" like Puerto Ricans.

What was the impact of "West Side Story" on Filipinos? The movie probably helped to push our love affair with Broadway plays. At least two post-war generations of Filipinos grew up exposed to, and enamored of Broadway. It wasn't just an extension of an American colonial mentality. There was more: the music, the dances, the whole effect of modern theater. Broadway beckoned, and for some Filipinos, like Lea Salonga, it became a niche to conquer.

'Sputnik'

The other anniversary we're marking this year comes from America's erstwhile No. 1 enemy, Russia. It was still the daunting Union of Soviet Socialist Republics or USSR and when they launched "Sputnik I," the first artificial satellite, on Oct. 4, 1957 (the week after "West Side Story," but I don't think this was done on purpose), America was shocked. It was the Cold War and surely, the communists couldn't be so advanced as to conquer space. But there it was, a satellite the size of a beach ball got the Americans all nervous.

It didn't help that on Nov. 3, the Russians launched "Sputnik II," this time with a dog named Laika on board. The dogged flight didn't quite make it back to earth, so Laika was the world's first space casualty.

The United States was frantic. There was probably paranoia at work here, knowing the enemy had something up there in space, peering down on earth. In December 1957, the Americans tried to launch their own satellite but it was unsuccessful. One British newspaper gloated, calling it "flopnik." But a month later, the Americans finally succeeded with "Explorer I" and in July 1958, the US Congress passed a law creating the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The rest is history about who got to the moon first, although there are still conspiracy theorists who claim that landing never really happened, that it was a creation of American propaganda.

"Sputnik's" effect on the world's imagination was to linger for years. I can't remember if I was in grade school or high school when the Russians launched another "Sputnik," a magazine, which somehow made its way to the Philippines to a grocery around the corner from our house. It was colorful, boasting about the USSR's achievements, and offering Russian language lessons. I was so thrilled with the Cyrillic alphabet.

I did learn about "Sputnik I" and II in the magazine, and about Laika and named one of our dogs after that space heroine. She lived up to her name, with a penchant for climbing ladders. This was, mind you, a dachshund.

It seemed "Sputnik" caught other people's imagination in other ways. In the 1980s, there was a British punk rock group called Sigue Sigue Sputnik with songs like "Love Missile F1-11." There are two competing theories around the source of the group's name. One camp says a band member read about a Russian pickpocket gang with that name and that Sigue Sigue meant "burn, burn," but we Filipinos know, too, that we had our Sigue Sigue Sputnik gang, "sigue" derived from the Spanish "keep going" or "carry on." The Filipino gang wasn't content with petty thievery, and apparently it's still around and is well represented in Bilibid and other penitentiaries.

So, there, a Russian space satellite did impact on Filipinos. And who knows, if it had been launched much earlier, maybe there would have been a Sigue Sigue Sputnik gang in New York, and it would have made its way into a Broadway play.

* * *

Announcement: Word Lab is organizing an international conference on learning disabilities, including dyslexia, from Oct. 25 to 27 at the Crowne Plaza. For more information, call 724-3871 or 416-9285.

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Peta clarifies stance on Manila Zoo

ALLOW ME TO MAKE SOME corrections about Peta's stance on the Manila Zoo. ("Animal Day debate: Should Manila Zoo be shut down?" INQUIRER, 10/4/07)

Closing a zoo is a multi-step process. First of all, breeding programs should be stopped. Secondly, the animals that could be reintroduced to the wild should be. Next, the majority of animals should be transferred to sanctuaries where they can live out their lives in environments that are closer to that of their natural habitat. (It would be very easy to find adequate sanctuaries for animals like Sese the orangutan and Mali the elephant.)

When the zoo is almost emptied out, the remaining animals for which there is no adequate sanctuary or those that cannot be reintroduced into the wild, should be allowed to live out the rest of their lives in the zoo or should be transferred to another facility.

Animals in zoos are sentenced to a life of boredom, loneliness and abuse—leading to self-mutilation and other abnormal and self-destructive behaviors called "zoochosis." Although animals can't speak a language that we understand, it doesn't mean they can't show how they feel. Like humans, animals have priorities, needs, preferences, emotions and thoughts that make each one an individual. The frustration and suffering of the animals at the Manila Zoo are easy to see and impossible to deny.

Look at Mali. Elephants are intelligent individuals that form their own societies, share calf-rearing responsibilities, develop wisdom as they age and express a range of emotions including joy and grief. In the wild, Mali would travel in a herd of 15-30 other elephants and would roam up to 80 kilometers a day; but in captivity, Mali spends her days alone in a barren cement enclosure, unable to exhibit any sort of natural behavior. It's simply unethical to treat Mali like this.

Look at Sese. Sese lives alone in a barren wire cage with no source of mental stimulation; she spends her days pacing back and forth. Orangutans are very intelligent, social animals. They spend time with their families and nurture their young. In the wild, they climb trees, sometimes 100-feet high in the air. At night, they make nests out of branches and leaves. Sese should be sent back to an orangutan sanctuary.

You can also look at the tigers who can never run (tigers roam up to 650 square kilometers in the wild; the entire Manila Zoo measures only 0.055 sq km); the birds who can never fly (some are actually tethered to branches); the turtles in enclosures packed so tightly they can barely move; the reptiles in glorified fish tanks; and a zebra confined alone to a muddy enclosure.

If the zoo cared about animals, it must never take animals from a good situation and put them in a bad one.

Many zoos around the world have stopped breeding programs, and are sending animals to facilities where they can be properly cared for. For more information go to PETAAsiaPacific.com.

—JASON BAKER,
director,
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals Asia-Pacific (Peta)
JasonB@PETAAsiaPacific.com

Crushing, making deals with Reds

WHO WAS IT WHO SAID, "WE will crush the communist insurgency in two years!" and then went on to make deals with true-blue communists who rule Communist China. Result? A multibillion-peso contract with ZTE, a company run by communists, was signed last April. The cost of that contract would have been paid for by generations of Filipinos.

The contract was called off? Was it because it was NBN? Meaning, "Na-Bisto-Na!" But the opposition says there are some 30 or more of such contracts entered into by the "communist crushers" with Chinese communists.

What then is the real score? Shall we crush the communists? Or, do we have lots of crushes among Chinese communists because they give us millions of dollars or billions of pesos in bribes?

Meanwhile, Filipino activists, communist or not, continue to be killed because of that program to crush communism in the Philippines in two years. But is communism really that bad? If so, then why are we entering into contracts worth billions of dollars with communists?

—NICHOLAS DEE,
nicholasd9@yahoo.com

Why 'inday' for a household helper?

"'INDAY' JOKES SPREAD; MILITANTS not amused." (INQUIRER, 10/10/07) I'm just wondering why the word *inday* is used to refer to a housemaid or domestic help. *Inday* is a Cebuano word whose equivalent in Tagalog is *neneng*, and in Ilocano *naneng*.

To use *inday* in referring to a domestic help is degrading for Cebuanos because a household help in Cebuano is called *katabang* and *inday* does not mean *katabang*.

—AURORA CASTILLO,
aocdum@yahoo.com

No first-come, first-served at the Araneta Coliseum

I HAVE, ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, GONE TO watch games at the Araneta Coliseum with either an Upper Box A or Upper Box B ticket. The tickets are unnumbered and sold on first-come, first-served basis.

For popular games (e.g., Ateneo-La Salle, La Salle-UST games)—even in those instances when I arrived an hour early for the game—I'd find it impossible to get two seats side-by-side because row upon row of seats had been previously reserved by a single person for friends. And some, using personal belongings, had reserved seats for their friends, who got into the coliseum a few minutes before the game—in violation, of course, of the spirit of the first-come, first-served seating policy.

The enforcement of seating rules and regulations is the responsibility of the management of the Araneta Coliseum. Unfortunately, it has no one to enforce them. Despite this lack, the management has enough staff to check every bag for a package of chips purchased outside the coliseum—a very effective way to ensure that the viewing public buys foodstuff only from its "authorized" sellers thus ensuring more revenues.

It seems that the management has resources for everything that would benefit the coliseum operators, but none to protect the rights of the viewing public.

This concern should definitely be addressed in the spirit of sportsmanship and justice. There should be absolutely no reservation of seats. Fans must make the sacrifice of being present themselves to choose their seats. And the Araneta Coliseum management should uphold this principle by assigning "enforcers."

—MANETTE ROXAS,
Quezon City

Consumer's choice: not for labor to dictate

THIS IS IN REACTION TO THE NEWS ITEM "HK pop star fired 21 Pinay maids in 3 years, is blacklisted." (INQUIRER, 9/28/07)

This article highlights a fundamental problem of the Philippine economic mindset. We don't seem to realize that jobs do not exist for the sake of the worker or a firm's owner/s. Jobs only exist for the sake of the consumer.

The only just reason why we have jobs is because we provide a service desired by a consumer willing and able to pay for it at a mutually agreed price. If not, then we all have to pay that person on the street who wipes our windshields without us asking him to do it. And regardless if he makes the windshield cleaner or not.

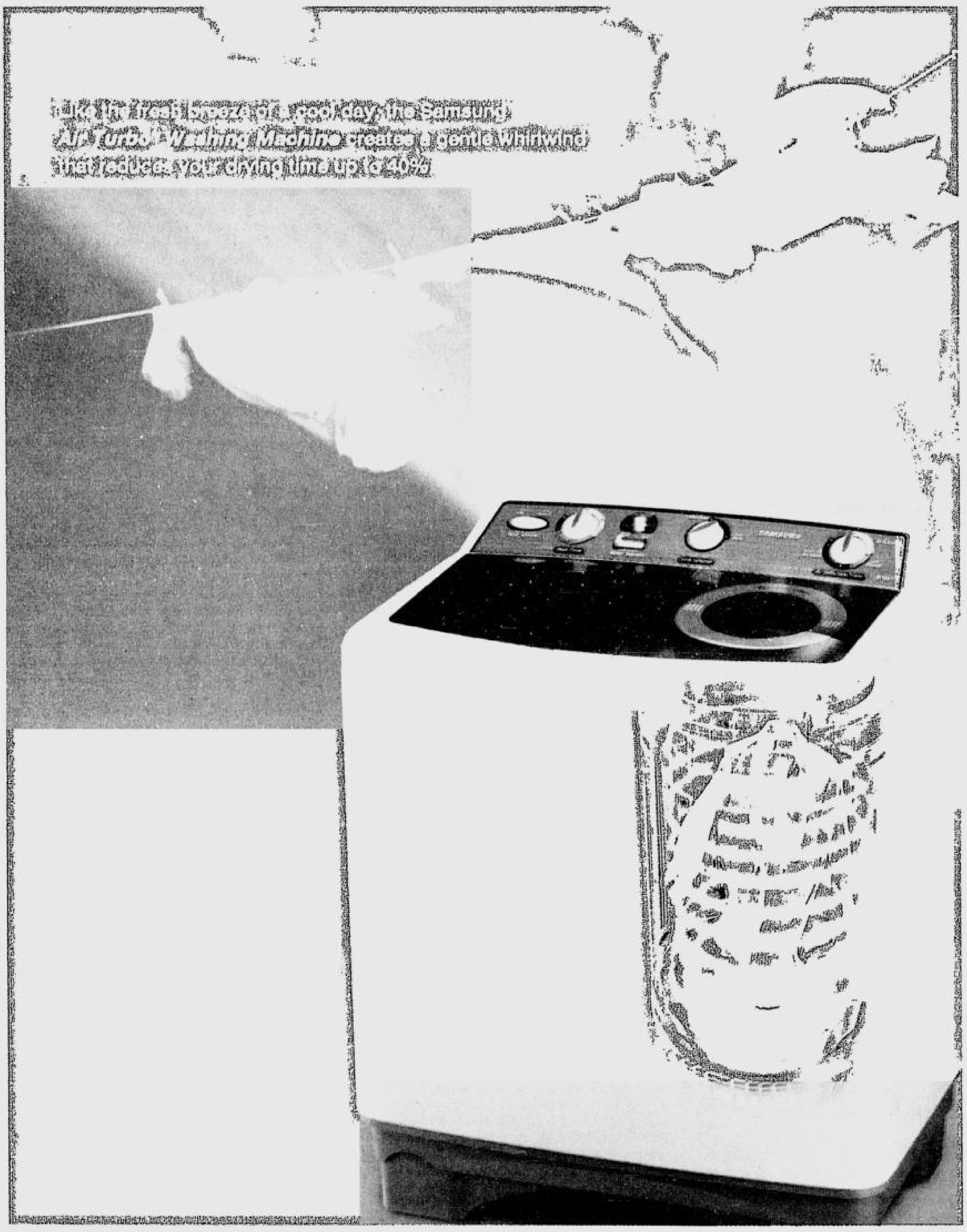
But life is complicated. These maids are driven by poverty to put up with this star's demands. We therefore try to empower them so they would make demands on their employers (i.e., make the consumer pay for something he doesn't want). But is the consumer liable and responsible for the maid's poverty? No. The Church will say he has a moral obligation. But moral obligations (unlike legal ones) are between you and God. If God is willing to let you commit all sorts of sins and go to hell because He wants a sincere and non-coerced commitment from you, then no mortal can ethically force you to fulfill your moral obligations.

The crucial point is workers end up dictating to consumers as to what the latter should get. Do I have to argue how perverse this is? Many argue a balance must be struck, but how can you strike a balance for something without ethical basis? How do you balance forcing someone to pay for something that he isn't responsible for and doesn't want? It may be noble to be charitable, but not when you are because there's a gun aimed at your head. This will only end in conflict.

Now the government tells Filipinos that they cannot take jobs from this star, thus depriving them the freedom and opportunity to make their own choice. Much like unions in our country, which desire to raise the cost of labor by limiting the supply. They willingly sacrifice the jobs of some maids so that other maids get better treatment. Is that ethical? And how many jobs/businesses end up not being created because of this?

Life is complicated. That is why we need to tackle this problem intelligently. Not issue knee-jerk policies. It only distracts us from making more jobs. Which is probably this administration's intention. (Remember the "super maid" fiasco?)

—MARK BELO,
36 Bonifacio St.,
Ayala Heights, Diliman, Quezon Ctiy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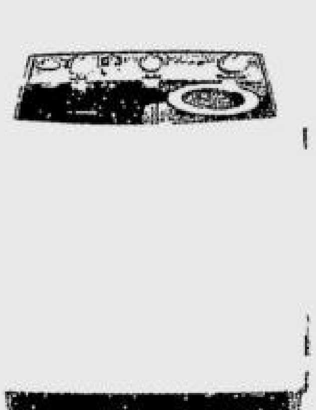

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Floor wax donated to landless school

GUINOBATAN, ALBAY—"ADDING INSULT TO INJURY" was how a head teacher here described the local government unit's giving of floor wax and wood polisher for a school that has yet to be rebuilt after being ravaged by consecutive typhoons last year.

The Barangay Maipon Elementary School here continues to conduct classes in three tattered tarpaulin tents and two cramped back rooms after the entire village was relocated late last year to the Barangay Travesia sports complex located in the same municipality.

Hazard zone

The Maipon Village was declared a hazard zone after 178 houses there were battered by strong rains and buried in the landslides that were triggered by super typhoons "Milenyo" and "Reming."

The displaced school has since then been relying on supplies donated by the regional Department of Education (DepEd) and various non-government organizations.

But Head Teacher Hayde Cadag said some of the donations, such as the floor cleaning materials, end up looking absurd, considering the glaring absence of an actual school building.

She said the delay in construction was primarily due to the failure of local government units to secure a site for the school.

Frustrating

"What is frustrating about our situation is that we have already bidded P3.87 million for construction from the Calamity Assistance and Rehabilitation Efforts (Care) funds. But if no site is found for us soon, DepEd may give the budget to other schools who are also in need of it," she added.

The Maipon Village was set to be given permanent housing this year in a 6-hectare site in Barangay Mauraro, for which construction is already underway.

However, Cadag was surprised to learn recently that the LGUs and the regional National Housing Authority had only designed the site for residential use and that no space had been allocated for the school.

Where's school?

"Where are we going to build our school now? We cannot stay where we are for much longer," Cadag said.

Guinobatan Mayor Juan Mitre Garçia said that along with other members of the provincial council, he had already forwarded to the governor the school's request to be allocated at least 5,000 square meters of the Mauraro housing project.

"Only the provincial government has the authority to allocate land, so we're just waiting for an official response. But the last time I met with the governor, he assured me that they are already looking for a site. We are not going to leave the Maipon community without a school," Garcia said.

Engineer Albert Perfecto, deputy area management officer for NHA-Bicol, confirmed that the school was not allocated space in the housing project for the Maipon community, but said an additional 2-hectare site near Mauraro was being considered for the school's construction.

Suffer the children

"We are also constructing a housing project in Sitio Kangaw in Barangay Quitago. We may also relocate the Maipon school there," he said.

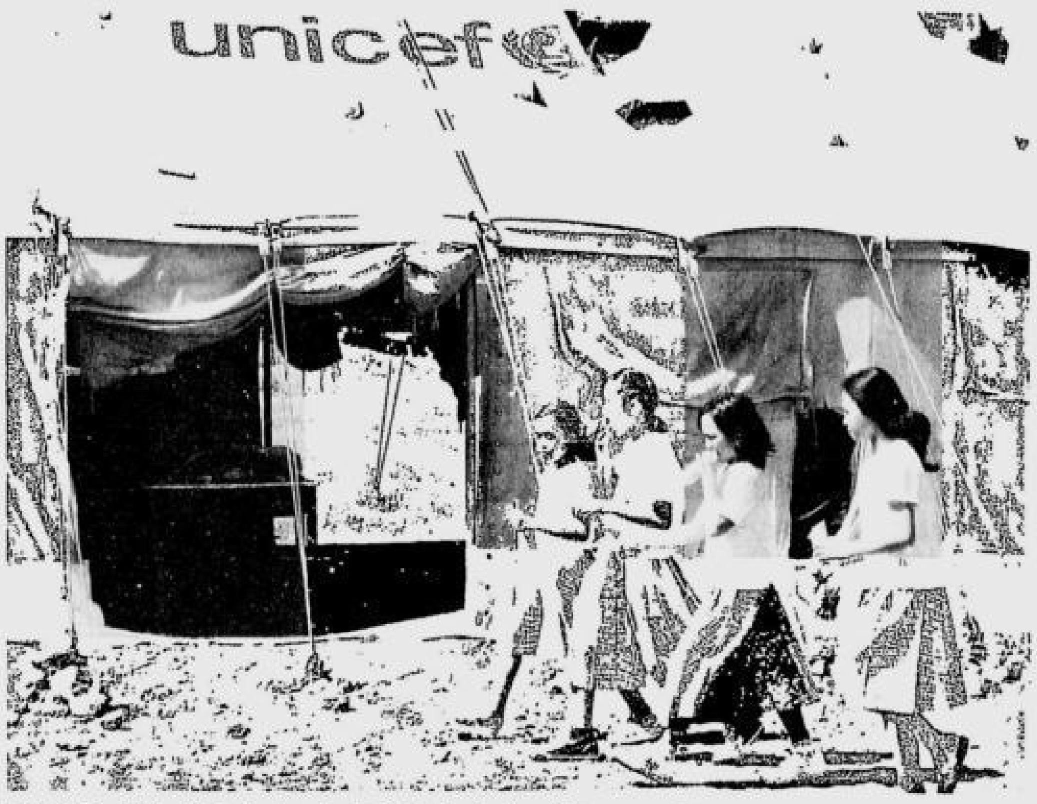
Neither Garcia nor Perfecto could specify when a construction site could actually be assigned to the school, but both said the search for a site was ongoing.

The 7x8 meter tents currently pitched on sandy grounds at the Travesia sports complex have proven insufficient to house the 192 Maipon students.

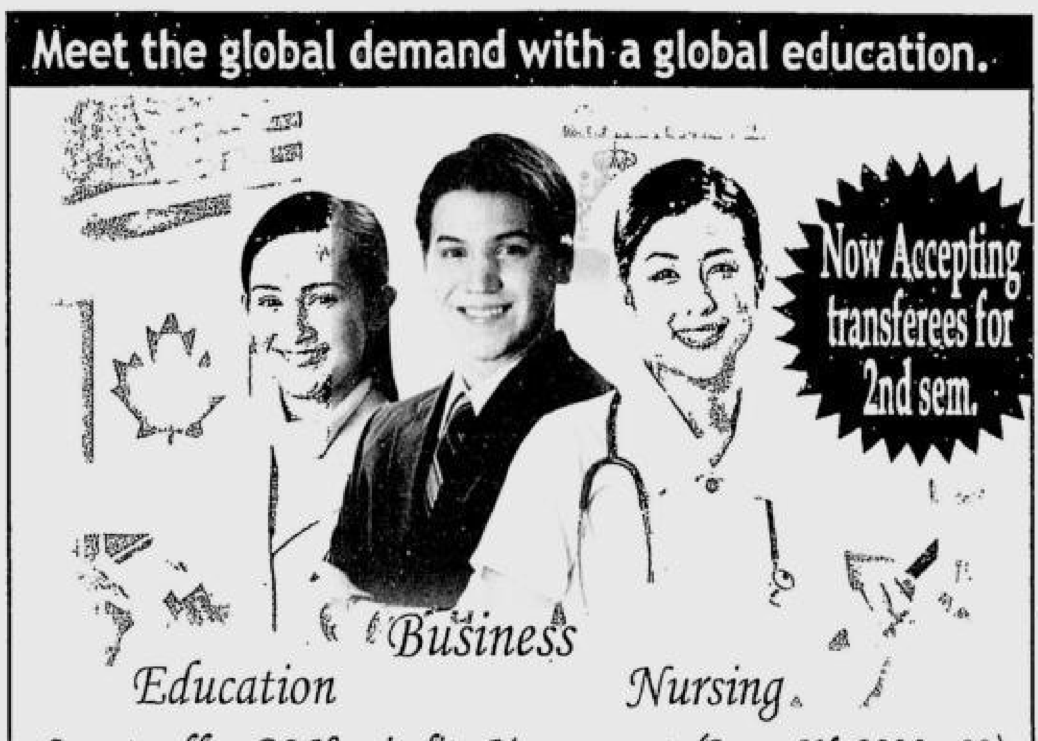
"When it is rainy, we wade through ankle-high floods. When it is windy, sand gets blown into our faces. When it is sunny, the heat inside the tent is unbearable. It is impossible for the children to study in these conditions," Cadag said.

She added that the student population had dwindled since January, from 322 pupils to only 192 today, with the children falling ill and going absent, transferring to other schools, or dropping out altogether.

Out of 145 elementary schools in the province of Albay, only the Maipon Elementary School remains displaced, Cadag said. *Jaymee T. Gamil, Inquirer Southern Luzon*



PUPILS walk to their tent schools in Guinobatan, Albay. NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON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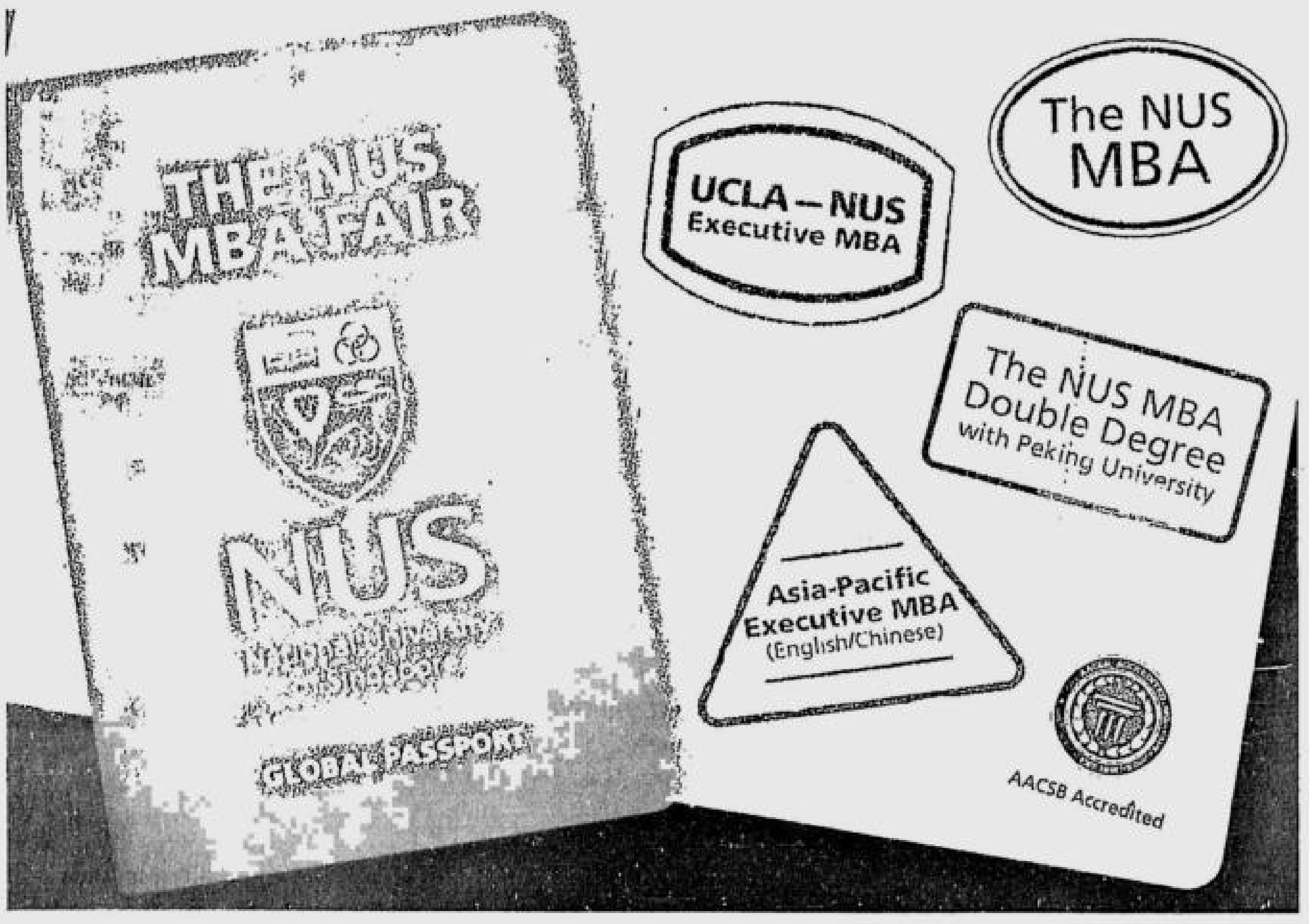
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14.00 - 15.00	Acquisition Strategy and Corporate Success in Asia - Prof Andrew Delios, Head, Business Policy Department, NUS Business School	
15.00 - 16.30	Student Sharing - Ms Aliza Racelis, The NUS MBA, Class of 1993 - Ms Melissa Ang, The NUS MBA, Class of 2007	Study, Live and Play in Singapore - Mr Rosson Chang, Area Director, Singapore Tourism Board
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- Invocation & National Anthem by Ms. Nanette Moscardon-Maigue
- Call to Order by Mr Willie Uy, Chairman of the Board
- Welcome Remarks by Mr. Roy D. Calleja, National President
- Message by Mr Eduardo M. Alunan, 1st National VP & Convention Chairman
- AM Session: Housing Prospects
- PM Session: New Construction Technologies (Saves on Cost, Saves on Time)
- Private Sector Finance
- Fellowship Night (Makati Skyline)

OCTOBER 25, THURSDAY (8:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.)
- AM Session: Global Market Opportunities in the U.S.A., Korea, Japan and the Middle East
- PM Session: Government Housing Finance
- Legislative Agenda on Housing
- Ribbon Cutting & Opening of HUDCC Housing Fair
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Sorsogon cries SOS after flood, lahar onslaught

IROSIN, SORSOGON—LOCAL OFFICIALS here appealed for help as hundreds of residents were evacuated to safer grounds following flash floods induced by heavy rains for the past two days.

Irosin Mayor Lilia Gonzales called on concerned national government agencies to look into the plight of the displaced residents.

More than a hundred families were transferred to evacuation centers in the villages of Cogon, Mapaso, Patag, Monbon and Bagsangan after tons of mud and lahar rushed down from the slopes of Bulusan Volcano past midnight Monday.

Councilor Yolly Balaoro, chair of the Social Services Committee of the municipal council, said some 32 houses were damaged by the lahar and mud onslaught in Barangay Monbon forcing the residents to seek safer areas.

Balaoro said although no one was injured in the mud and lahar flow, a 16-year-old boy was electrocuted at the height of the evacuation.

She said residents volunteered to clear waterways and put up sandbags to divert the flow of the flood to its original path.

As of Tuesday morning, a large part of the village was still inaccessible to transportation.

Sorsogon Gov. Sally Lee, who rushed to the site, said the provincial government had already mobilized its heavy equipment to help in dredging the area and clear it of debris.

Lee said she would also confer with other government agencies to assess the situation and determine the best option.

Bobby Q. Labalan, Inquirer S. Luzon

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NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

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for **RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE**
OIC-Regional Director

(PDI-October 17, 2007)

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Perfumed all these years

By Frank Cimatu
Baguio City

THREE YEARS AGO, INTERnational art critic and curator Rosa Martinez heard about "Mababangong Bangungot (Perfumed Nightmare)" from a friend. Martinez, a Spaniard, watched this Kidlat Tahimik film and was stirred enough to include it in the Venice Biennale in 2005.

Tahimik was grouped in the "Always a Little Further" among the fiercely independent artists who refused to be conventional and always pushed their art further. He was with the Guerrilla Girls, Joana Vasconselos, Ghada Amer, Blue Noses, Center of Attention, Santiago Sierra and Oleg Kulik.

Martinez is known in art circles for rediscovering hidden geniuses and her inclusion of Tahimik is inspired, even if he is almost unknown in the Philippines.

"Mababangong Bangungot" is 30 years old, but the nightmarish aroma is still pungent after all these years. Tahimik also celebrated his 65th year on Oct. 3.

"*Halos namatay na lahat sila* (Most of them have died)," Tahimik said of his main characters, all residents of his mother's hometown in Laguna.

"*Yung mga bata malalaki na ang mga anak* (The children featured in the film now have children of their own)," he said.

"Mababangong Bangungot" is unheard of, except for Baguio residents and cineastes. This is tragic because the film opened the floodgates for the country's independent film industry, which is having a renaissance of sorts.

'Conceptual artist'

Film critic Roland Tolentino, in his recent essay on indie films, described Tahimik as a "conceptual artist" and cited him and Nick Deocampo as the ones who introduced alternative Philippine filmmaking to the world art festival market.

Tahimik made "Mababangong Bangungot" with no working script and a budget that cost $10,000 or P450,000. He resigned from his consultancy job in Paris and spent two-and-a-half years editing the film.

His guerrilla-type of filming and editing gave the movie a quirky, primitive-like style that astounded film critics.

The film is a story of a jeepney driver (played by Tahimik), who was president of the Werner von Braun Club (Von Braun is a German scientist who developed the rocket technology) and who sought out his hero and became disillusioned with American colonialism. When he resigned as club president, the movie took on an absurd tone.

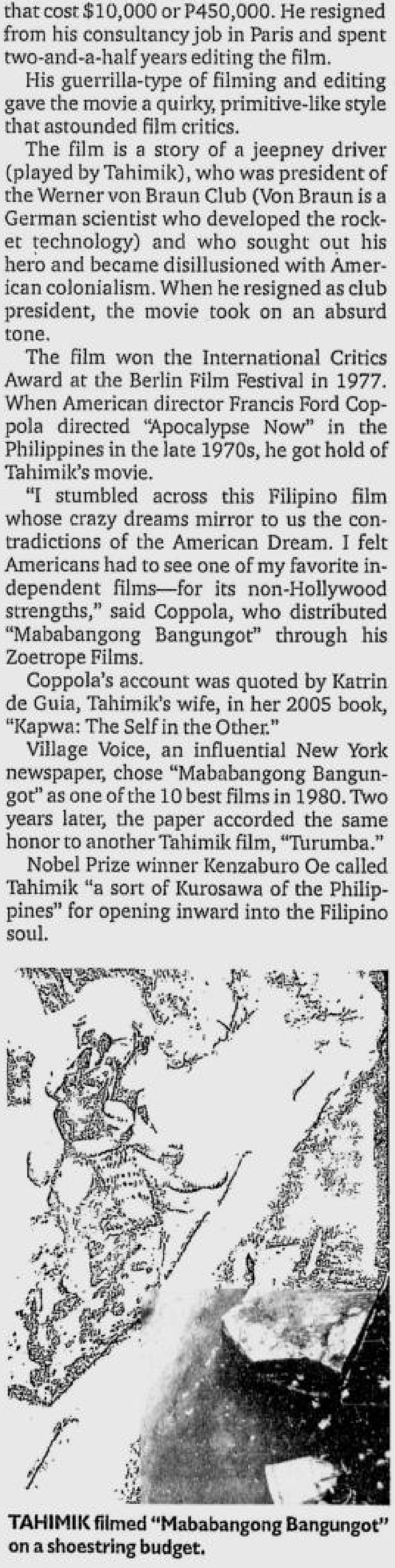
The film won the International Critics Award at the Berlin Film Festival in 1977. When American director Francis Ford Coppola directed "Apocalypse Now" in the Philippines in the late 1970s, he got hold of Tahimik's movie.

"I stumbled across this Filipino film whose crazy dreams mirror to us the contradictions of the American Dream. I felt Americans had to see one of my favorite independent films—for its non-Hollywood strengths," said Coppola, who distributed "Mababangong Bangungot" through his Zoetrope Films.

Coppola's account was quoted by Katrin de Guia, Tahimik's wife, in her 2005 book, "Kapwa: The Self in the Other."

Village Voice, an influential New York newspaper, chose "Mababangong Bangungot" as one of the 10 best films in 1980. Two years later, the paper accorded the same honor to another Tahimik film, "Turumba."

Nobel Prize winner Kenzaburo Oe called Tahimik "a sort of Kurosawa of the Philippines" for opening inward into the Filipino soul.



TAHIMIK filmed "Mababangong Bangungot" on a shoestring budget.

So how much did the film gross?

"$20,000 (P900,000)," said Tahimik, chuckling.

He was not a Marxist although he joined Baguio's version of the Edsa Revolt at the Baguio Cathedral in 1986 and had been vocal against the summer capital's over-development.

Debate

But the debate on the impact of "Mababangong Bangungot" rages among Marxist film critics.

American critic Fredric Jameson included the film as an example of his "geopolitical aesthetic" for its resistance to Hollywood themes and production.

Tolentino and writer Epifanio San Juan Jr. said the anti-Marcos theme was ignored.

San Juan said Tahimik's choice for the patron saint in the movie was telling. Saint Mark was "San Marcos" at the time of Marcos' dictatorship.

"The cultural regime of rituals can therefore be paralleled to the political culture of the [Ferdinand] Marcos dictatorship," San Juan said.

It is interesting that the film still stirs much debate despite the fact that it has to be transferred into a popular DVD format.

But then Tahimik's spirit lives on among indie film producers. That is why he still gives a "Bamboo Camera Award" to the Cinemalaya entries.

Younger auteurs and more notable filmmakers like Aureaus Solito, Lav Diaz and Angel Shaw consider Tahimik their biggest influence. That scene of Tahimik pulling his jeepney still brings a rush akin to a perfumed *bangungot*.

KIDLAT Tahimik

PHOTOS BY EV ESPIRITU

In loving memory of

Dr. Natividad Relucio Clavano, MD

Wife, mother, friend

Doctor, hospital administrator, breastfeeding advocate
whose work helped spark off a global rejuvenation of breastfeeding

> *"We allowed the companies to touch the lives of our babies, not because we did not care, but because we did not realise the consequences of granting such a privilege. How to change all that? How to break the 'friendly' stranglehold that we had allowed the milk companies to have on our hospital?*
>
> *I closed the door of the nursery to the milk companies.... Everything that was conducive to bottle feeding was removed not only from the nursery, but from everywhere else in the hospital. I myself rejected samples and donations from the milk companies. How else could we be credible?"*
>
> *Dr. Natividad Clavano, 1932-2007*

Dr. Natividad Relucio Clavano was Chief of Paediatrics, Baguio General Hospital, Philippines who provided research which demonstrated the damaging impact that western medical practices can have on breastfeeding and child survival. Her work continues to save millions of lives across the globe.

Natividad was born in Manila on 1st October 1932. Seventeen years after graduating in medicine from the University of Santo Tomas, her life took a dramatic turn when she came to London for post-graduate studies in Pediatrics at the Institute of Child Health, London University. Prof. David Morley opened her eyes to urgent problems facing the underprivileged in her country. At that time babies were routinely removed from their mothers at birth and placed in a nursery and formula fed – with supplies happily provided by the milk companies. But protests about the practices causing this particular 'commerciogenic malnutrition' had started.

Natividad returned home armed with practical information about how to change hospital practices and prejudices. She stressed the need to retrain medical and nursing staff - many had not seen fully breastfed babies and mistook normal breastfed stools for diarrheoa. Most importantly she documented the results of her actions. Her 10,000-baby study of infants born in Baguio General Hospital in 1973 and 1977 (which Nestlé tried to suppress) showed that rooming in (keeping mothers and babies together) and demand breastfeeding (rather than feeding to a rigid timetable) increased breastfeeding rates from 40% to 87% and reduced the rates of diarrhoea by 94% and death by 95%.

She spoke in Washington at the US Senate Inquiry in 1978 under Senator Ted Kennedy, who publicly demanded that the World Health Organization (WHO) do something about the aggressive marketing of infant formula. In 1981, the World Health Assembly adopted the International Code on the Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and began helping governments implement it. In 1986 President Corazon Aquino signed into law the Philippine National Milk Code – at the time one of the toughest laws in Asia.

Natividad's work came to the attention of Jim Grant, then UNICEF's Executive Director, with whom she helped set up the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative and its Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding, which has been transforming hospital practices in 192 countries. In 2006, she received the Order of the Golden Heart from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for her pioneering work in pediatrics and infant feeding and for her Under-Five Clinic National Programme.

Natividad spoke in defence of new rules for the Milk Code at the Philippine Senate inquiry in 2005. A decision by the Supreme Court was announced on 9 October 2007 and many, but not all, of the controls on marketing that Clavano fought for were approved.

The level of commercial promotion of bottle feeding is high and if we are to turn things around and put infant health before the needs of industry we will need more health workers with the honesty and courage that Natividad showed.

(From an obituary by Patti Rundall, OBE Policy Director, Baby Milk Action/International Baby Food Action Network, United Kingdom)

Dr. Nicholas Alipui, Country Representative, UNICEF Philippines:
We remember you for your beauty, your warm friendship, your deep intelligence and, above all, how full you have been of life, passion and ideas, and how in life you have always put the Rights and welfare of others above your own comfort. You had that simple way of giving yourself completely for the happiness of others. And in your search for justice for infants and young children, you gained international recognition and worldwide praise for your breastfeeding promotion work.

You have been a worldwide icon for breastfeeding and a tireless defender of the Right to food security for infants and young children.

Innes Fernandez, Executive Director, Arugaan and convenor, Save Babies Coalition, Philippines:
We will miss our breastfeeding doctor-warrior who bravely testified against milk companies insidious marketing that caused bottle feeding menace. She talked openly about how Nestle in a meeting in Geneva tried to bribe her in exchange for dropping her remarkable study.

She was one of the few brave woman-doctors who, despite her lingering illness, gave breastfeeding trainings anywhere and anytime especially last year. On media interviews, she dared to tell the public about milk companies advertising lies, she is one of few doctors unafraid of the multinational giants.

INFACT Canada:
Our national director, Elisabeth Sterken, had met Clavano, who will be long remembered in the Philippines and around the world for saving the lives of many, many children. She not only saved the lives of many infants, but also convinced thousands of others to work towards the protection of infant health.

Prof. David Morley, MD, CBE of University College London-Institute of Child Health:
She had great drive and was a wonderful person not least because she came from the more wealthy in Philippine society but appreciated the needs of the poor and underprivileged.

Anwar Fazal, Chairperson Emeritus of the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) and recipient of the Right Livelihood Award (Alternative Nobel Peace Prize), Malaysia:
Dr. Natividad Clavano, this tiny woman moved mountains. To those who said it could not be done I can hear her saying, "Get out of the way of those of us who are already doing it!"At the Baguio Hospital in the Phillipines, she gave us a shining model that inspired two generations of activists and health professionals. Her competence and her courage were legendary.

From Virginia Thorley, OAM, PhD, IBCLC, Member, WABA's International Advisory Council Lactation Consultant (original cohort of 1985). Cultural Historian of the History of Medicine. Brisbane, Queensland, Australia:
I send my condolences to all in the Philippines who worked with Dr Clavano in her campaigns to support the health of mothers and babies and defeat the attacks of breastfeeding. I hope her example will inspire others to take up the work.

From Dr. Marina Ferreira Rea, Senior Researcher, Institute of Health of Sao Paulo, Brazil:
I was with Dr Clavano last time I was there in 2006 and could see how the national authorities supported her. We - even far away in Brazil - wish she rests in peace.

gatas ni nanay
walang kapantay!

unicef

Requests for share of Palace cash swamp gov

By Arlyn de la Cruz

IT WAS NOT UNUSUAL TO SEE many people lining up in the different offices of the Bulacan Provincial Capitol especially on a Monday, which is also a session day where most of the elected board members are present. But last Monday, Oct. 15 was extraordinary, according to Bulacan board member Ramon Posadas.

That day, the visitors came early, and almost all of them were barangay captains coming from the more than 500-barangays of one of the most populated provinces in the country.

Heard news

"The barangay captains were there because of what they heard from the news that Malacañang allegedly gave cash to governors," Posadas told the INQUIRER. *"Umaapaw ng kapitan ang kapitolyo noong Lunes."*

A provincial employee also observed that some of the barangay captains were even carrying a copy of the INQUIRER Sunday edition where the banner headline was the controversial revelation of Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio that he received half a million peso in crisp P1,000-bills inside a brown bag after attending a meeting in Malacañang on Oct. 11.

Later that day, Bulacan Gov. Joselito "Jonjon" Mendoza would support the statement of Panlilio, admitting that he too received P500,000-cash from an unidentified woman in Malacañang.

> 'Even before the governor spoke, the barangay captains were already there ...'

Captains' turn

"Even before the governor spoke, the barangay captains were already there. It's their turn to ask for help from Capitol officials whom they have helped)," Posadas said, interpreting the presence of the barangay captains at the provincial capitol.

While Posadas agreed that there were ethical and moral questions involved in the act of giving money to barangay leaders, he too explained that this was "part of local politics that all local officials deal with."

Some barangay captains could be very blunt in demanding for financial assistance from their governors and Posadas said he was certain this was also true for other provinces.

The Bulacan board member also said the fact that the political debt was just last May, it was even easier for barangay leaders to demand that their local leaders help them in their respective campaigns for the barangay elections on Oct. 29.

Justification

Cavite Gov. Ireneo "Ayong" Maliksi said he did not receive any cash from any Malacañang official after attending last Thursday's meeting, but said he would accept it and would not hesitate to use it for projects for the barangay, which, he said, has a lot of needs.

"All the local leaders would be approached by barangay officials, whether allies or not, since they have no one else to go to. So, it is impossible for us not to take care of them since they are the ones we depend on to help us not only during elections, but also when the local official is already installed."

Some barangay leaders would even look for their governors outside of the capitol building just to seek help, Maliksi said, adding that this was how it is in local politics.

He said he would not look at the money as a bribe, first, because he did not hear anything and secondly, he did not receive anything as he left early. But it there was, he would look at it as help from the president. However, he said he would ask what the money was for and not just accept it.

No take

But at the Bulacan provincial capitol, while the story on the cash donation from Malacañang was received as a breaker worthy of laughter and light moments among local officials, it also led to serious questions as to the real state of politics in the country.

A lawyer by profession, Posadas said, aside from moral and ethical issues, it is also against the law to give money during election period. *"Magsolicit nga bawal* (Even soliciting is prohibited)."

Posadas added that what he viewed was the saddest part of this controversy was that the act of handing out money, with or without any explicit condition, came from the symbol of the highest power in the land—Malacañang. *"Kung ganun ang tingin ng mga nasa Malacañang sa mga lokal na opisyal na lang na nakaupo, hindi ba parang may mali na talaga sa values natin ngayon? Hindi ba ito ang dapat na pagtibayin nating muli? Yung values ng mga Filipino?"* (If that is what the Malacañang residents view local officials, is there something wrong with our values today? Isn't this what we have to renew—Filipino values?)

Youth council bets adopt move to court religious bloc

CABANATUAN CITY—THE PRACTICE of courting the endorsement of the Iglesia ni Cristo, a religious organization known to practice bloc voting, is not the exclusive domain of candidates for national and local government positions.

In the run up to the Oct. 29 synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections, some candidates for SK positions have started seeking the endorsement of local INC ministers to push their candidacies.

Early start

A candidate for SK chair in a northern Nueva Ecija city said she went to the office of the local INC minister to seek his help in her candidacy.

She said her father, who knows the minister, accompanied her and together they asked for an endorsement of her candidacy to the young members of the group.

The minister, she said, was non-committal and said he would study her request.

The candidate, a senior high school student who declined to be identified to avoid accusations of early campaigning, said she knew that other candidates in their village, both for the SK and barangay council elections, have already approached the minister to seek his endorsement.

Influence

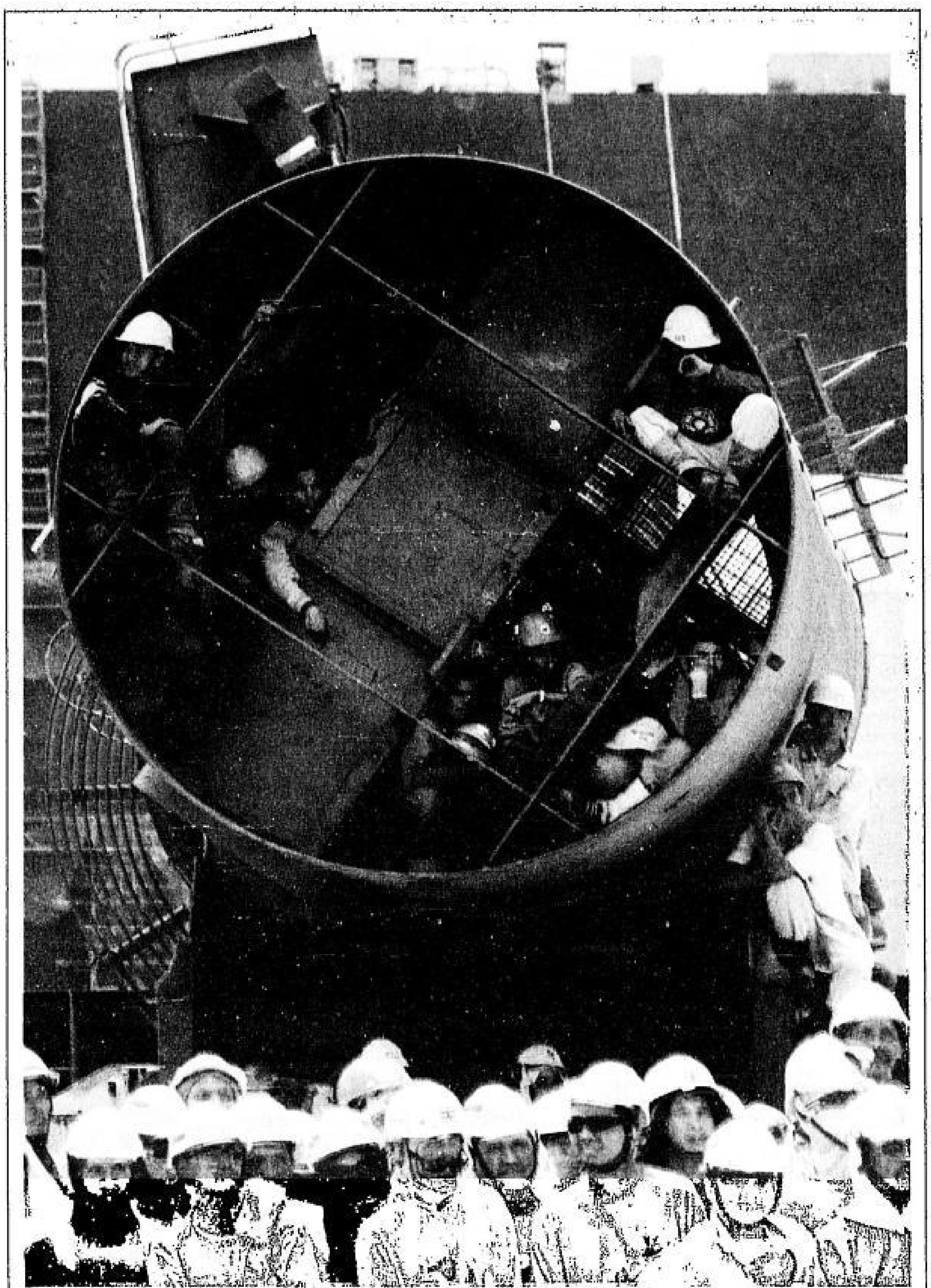
"I was told that the members of INC deliver solid votes. That was the reason why we approached the minister. His endorsement will be a big help for me since there are many members of his group in our village," the candidate said.

In Isabela, the police have tightened security preparations for the barangay and SK elections in at least 199 villages where communist rebels are known to be operating.

Senior Supt. Dominador Aquino Jr., Isabela police director, said he has ordered an intensified monitoring of these villages to stop any violent incident in the run up to the elections.

"We have to work on this matter because the police have been [one of the] primary forces against communist rebels," he said.

Aquino said the villages they are watching are in the towns of Benito Soliven, Echague, Jones, San Mariano and San Agustin. *Anselmo Roque, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon*



OPENINGS LYN RILLON

Workers at the Tsuneishi Heavy Industries Inc. shipyard in Cebu take vantage positions at an unfinished part of a ship that they're building to get a better view of the arrival of President Macapagal-Arroyo in the shipyard. The shipyard has already produced two ships for a German truck company.

Measles cases alarm ARMM health execs

SHARIFF AGUAK, MAGUINDANAO—A health official has expressed alarm over the sudden rise in the number of measles cases this year in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) amid the national government's drive to rid the country of the viral disease common to children 14 years old and below.

From a total of 47 recorded cases last year (January-September), it has ballooned to 264 in the same period this year, with Sulu and Basilan provinces providing the most serious cause for alarm, said ARMM Health Secretary Dr. Tahir Sulaik, whose concern is to be able to immunize 69,483 children in the region this year.

ARMM, considered the poorest region in the country with the lowest literacy rate, has been the focus of foreign assistance due to its inadequate funding support from the national government.

"The limited funding is not only true here but also in other regions of the country since the bulk of our national budget goes to debt servicing," said Sulaik.

Health needs

He urged health workers to prioritize the health needs of the 3.3 million inhabitants and maximize use of all available resources to be able to meet its target.

The lack of resources, according to Sulaik, is complemented by the help from the World Health Organization, Unicef, DOH and the local government units.

During its launching of "Knockout Tigdas" here on Monday, ARMM Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan had shelled out P500,000 for the project.

Ampatuan commended Maguindanao health workers, led by Dr. Elizabeth Samama, for having only two measles cases this year compared to zero in 2006.

"What really was alarming was the 2007 Basilan measles record of 126 cases compared to nothing last year," Sulaik said.

He also expressed concern over Samama's latest health findings that this province is endemic to filariasis, a mosquito-borne illness. *Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*

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Trips paid for by Taiwan firm put execs in trouble

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS filed criminal and administrative charges against Iloilo City Vice Mayor Jed Mabilog for going on a trip to Taiwan sponsored by a company proposing to put up a coal-fired power plant in the city, a few days after they filed a similar complaint against Mayor Jerry Treñas.

Lawyer Romeo Gerochi filed the case against Mabilog before the regional office of the Office of the Ombudsman on Monday on behalf of the Responsible Ilonggos for Renewal Energy (Rise).

Unethical conduct

In his complaint, Gerochi accused Mabilog of violating Republic Act 6713, or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, for going on an all-expense paid trip to Taiwan on Oct. 12-14, along with seven city councilors.

Global Business Power Corp. (GBPC)-Panay Power Corp. (PPC) and its technical partner, Taiwan-based Formosa Heavy Industries (FHIC), shouldered the costs of the trip to Taiwan.

The GBPC-PPC, the main power supplier of the city, has proposed to build a 100-megawatt coal plant at the PPC plant site in Barangay Ingore in La Paz District, Iloilo City.

Coal proponent

Treñas also went on a similar trip to Taiwan on Sept. 28-30, also sponsored by GBPC-PPC and FHIC.

Gerochi said he would also file a complaint against the seven city councilors after he has secured proof they admitted that the coal plant project proponents sponsored their trip.

Treñas and Mabilog earlier publicly stated that the coal plant proponents sponsored their trips.

Admission

Mabilog said, in an earlier interview with the INQUIRER, that they were not violating any law by pushing through with their trip.

He pointed out that Local Government Undersecretary Austere Panadero approved their "study tour," just like the Department of Interior and Local Government did in the trip of Treñas.

Mabilog also said they did not violate RA 6713 because the coal plant project did not need the city government's approval.

ONE of the most known coal power plants in the country, Calaca, continues to produce electricity for the Luzon grid using coal technology that was tagged as dirty.

MARLON ALEXANDER LUISTRO/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

GMA admin won't change, says Speaker's son

By Jerome Aning

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA JR. believes that corruption will continue in the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo because she has become inured to it, according to his son, Jose "Joey" de Venecia III.

"In the words of my father, the President is 'numb to corruption,'" the younger De Venecia yesterday said at a forum at the University of the Philippines in Quezon City.

He himself expected that graft in the public sector would persist in the next three years. "I believe and I'm optimistic that the President and her gang won't change," he said.

Asked about the Palace's alleged bribery of lawmakers and governors, the younger De Venecia said that despite all the cover-ups and media spins, "A bribe is a bribe is a bribe."

"They think we're so dumb that we don't know what they're doing. They thought all of us are fools and that we will keep our silence forever. But they're wrong," he said.

It was he who disclosed that then Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. offered him $10 million in December 2006 so his company would withdraw its unsolicited proposal to undertake the National Broadband Network (NBN) project.

Joey de Venecia claimed that Abalos brokered the $329-million NBN deal awarded to China's ZTE Corp. in exchange for commissions.

He also accused the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, of bullying him to make him "back off" from the NBN project.

Another bribe offer made by Abalos was disclosed by Romulo Neri at a Senate hearing on the NBN deal last month. Neri, then director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, said he was offered P200 million by Abalos early this year so he would endorse the proposal of ZTE.

Amid the allegations of bribery and overpricing, the President scrapped the ZTE deal early this month.

The disclosures also led to the resignation of Abalos, a squabble between senators and Malacañang over executive privilege, a reexamination of the government's contract awarding procedures, and a new impeachment case filed against Ms Arroyo.

No longer 'my President'

Asked at the forum why he was no longer referring to Ms Arroyo as "my President," Joey de Venecia said: "I have lost my respect for her. She has allowed Cabinet officials [who attended the recent Senate hearing on the ZTE] who were her alter egos to perjure themselves for five hours. So from then on, I lost my respect."

During the first Senate hearing on the ZTE deal last month, De Venecia repeatedly referred to Ms Arroyo as "my President" because, according to him, he voted for her.

De Venecia said Ms Arroyo may be cited for betrayal of public trust for not informing the public about Abalos' offer of bribe to Neri.

The businessman, however, said while he was disenchanted with Ms Arroyo, he was not calling for her to step down.

He recalled instances of people calling in vain for her resignation.

"We have to keep fighting and making people aware of what is going on," he said, adding that he would continue his "advocacy" against corruption.

DE VENECIA III

CBCP tells execs: Admit Palace gift

From page A1

was a cash gift or a bribe.

"From a moral standpoint, one should not accept money about which questions can be asked because it renders responsibility, accountability and transparency a dubious subject matter," Lagdameo said in a statement.

Quoting from the "Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church," he said there should now be a call for greater transparency and honesty, particularly because there had been an "unscrupulous use of money."

"With this sort of thing happening, our country is suffering not only from economic bankruptcy but also moral bankruptcy, disappointingly being shown by our leaders," Lagdameo said.

Perhaps unaware that the CBCP had issued a call to local government officials to come forward, the militant fisherfolk alliance Pamalakaya urged the influential organization to "convince all the governors and mayors to come out in the open and tell all about Malacañang's bribe."

Pamalakaya said it was "the moral obligation of the Church to ferret out the truth."

The only incentive

But while Panlilio and Bulacan Gov. Joselito "Jonjon" Mendoza had earlier admitted receiving P500,000 each from the Palace, there were only denials yesterday from other governors.

Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado—otherwise available for interviews but unusually silent over the weekend—finally spoke up yesterday and denied that money changed hands during Ms Arroyo's meeting with local officials.

He said "the only incentive" he brought home from the meeting was Ms Arroyo's issuance of Administrative Order No. 201 urging other governors to follow Bohol's experience in fighting the insurgency problem and pursuing peace.

Aumentado said that during the meeting, he delivered a valedictory address and relinquished the presidency of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap), the umbrella organization of governors, mayors and other local officials.

Didn't get any, but...

There was also no money for Cavite Gov. Erineo "Ayong" Maliksi, who said he had learned of the purported largesse only from the INQUIRER report on Panlilio's admission.

"Yes. I was there at the meeting but I didn't stay long as I had another appointment in Makati. I really know nothing about it. I didn't receive money," Maliksi told the INQUIRER by phone on Monday.

But he said another governor, whom he declined to name, had admitted to him that certain local officials were given money.

He quoted the governor as saying that the money was intended for the coming barangay elections and had nothing to do with the latest impeachment case filed against Ms Arroyo.

Maliksi said that when he learned about Panlilio's admission, he immediately phoned Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares III but could not reach the latter.

He said he and Ynares were seated side by side during the meeting.

"I then called up a friend who is also a governor. My friend said he received money from Malacañang but it was not meant to persuade the governors to denounce the impeachment. Rather, it was meant to help candidates in the barangay elections," he said.

Maliksi said the money could have come from the coffers of the ruling parties and that there was nothing illegal in distributing funds to support party mates during an election period.

Asked if he would accept money if it were offered, the third-term governor said: "Yes, of course. It will be a big help to the candidates for barangay posts. Many of them approach me for help.

"I want to help those who helped me when I ran for governor in the past elections."

Honest Ed

Southern Leyte Gov. Damian Mercado also denied having received money.

"What an honest governor," Mercado said of Panlilio, adding:

"If [he] thinks the money is not good, he should have returned it to Malacañang."

Kalinga Gov. Floydelia Diasen said she was in Malacañang on Oct. 11 but did not get anything.

Siquijor Gov. Orlando Fua Jr. said neither he nor his father, Siquijor Rep. Orlando Fua, received money.

But Governor Fua said that with the admission of Panlilio and Mendoza, he would demand to know why he was not given any money when Siquijor needed more assistance than the other provinces.

He said he would raise this issue with the president of the League of Provinces of the Philippines during their meeting on Oct. 29 in Dumaguete City, where Ms Arroyo is also scheduled to attend the launching of the Integrated Tax (I-Tax) collection system.

Audience 'lang'

Baguio Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. said he was one of four mayors who attended the Oct. 11 meeting. He said he was not approached by any Palace official bearing money, nor did he detect anything amiss.

Bautista, a member of Ms Arroyo's party, the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), said it was a Cabinet meeting called by the Palace to discuss Regional Development Council issues.

"The congressmen are the ones assumed to have been given [money]. *Kami,* audience *lang sa* meeting (We were there simply as the audience)," he said.

Bautista expressed surprise at Panlilio's admission.

"We were there [at the Palace] after breakfast," he told the INQUIRER, adding that it would not have been "appropriate" if money were distributed.

Admissions

Among the 190 lawmakers who met with the President for breakfast on Oct. 11, Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco has admitted on record that he received money. He said it was a "Christmas gift."

Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan, coordinator of the ruling Lakas-CMD in the Cordillera, has also acknowledged receiving money, but said the amount was an incentive allowance that congressmen normally receive at the end of a productive period.

Domogan has not responded to repeated requests from the INQUIRER for an interview on the issue.

According to a former Cordillera representative, who asked not to be named because he did not want to be involved in the controversy, congressmen often receive incentive bonuses before Christmas.

But "the Oct. 29 barangay elections may put this practice under scrutiny," he said, adding:

"Technically, congressmen are not supposed to influence the nonpartisan political exercise, but in realpolitik, they support their own people, especially since presidential elections require allies in the grass roots."

In a rush to leave

All three Bohol representatives—Edgar Chatto, Roberto Cajes and Adam Relson Jala—said they did not stay long at the Palace on Oct. 11 because they had to catch a flight back to the province.

"I will do a Panlilio if [I received] money," Cajes said.

Chatto said Ms Arroyo arrived late for the breakfast meeting, so he did not wait for it to be concluded.

He said he and his two colleagues made sure they would be in Bohol in time for Ms Arroyo's visit the next day, "hence the urgency to leave ahead of the others."

The President inaugurated the controversial P3.6-billion Bayongan Dam in San Miguel town on Friday morning. *Reports from Beverly T. Natividad in Manila; Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Gabriel Cardinoza, Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon; Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon; Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Kit Bagaipo, Jhunnex Napallacan and Jani Arnaiz, Inquirer Visayas*

Still no statement from GMA herself

From page A1

Eddie Panlilio and several other officials that they received anywhere between P200,000 and P500,000 in crisp bills while leaving Malacañang on Thursday after meetings with Ms Arroyo.

Ms Arroyo's office has one of the fattest budgets in the bureaucracy but Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. yesterday dismissed suggestions that the money bags came from the Office of the President (OP).

President's funds

The OP budget for 2007 amounted to about P3.8 billion, according to Andaya.

This is broken down into: P1.5 billion for personnel services, P2.1 billion for maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE), and P216 million for capital outlay. (Andaya rounded off figures, total only amounts to P3.796 billion).

It is from MOOE that Ms Arroyo can draw her confidential and intelligence funds. These funds, amounting to P650 million this year, and other discretionary funds do not go through usual auditing procedures.

Ms Arroyo has more. Previous national budgets gave her about P3 billion for Calamity Fund and P2 billion for Contingent Fund.

She also has a P1.2-billion Pagcor (Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.) Social Fund, a P500-million Pagcor Intelligence Fund, a P3-billion PCSO (Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office) and lotto funds.

All the above are lump sum funds disbursed "upon approval of the President," according to the 2007 national budget.

Discretionary in nature

These funds are treated by Congress as discretionary in nature since the President has discretion as to the amount to be paid and as to the beneficiaries or recipients of the funds.

On top of these discretionary funds, Ms Arroyo has a say in disbursing funds for public works and revenues from road users' tax, among others.

Andaya said in an interview that the funds purportedly handed out to congressmen and governors on Thursday did not come from the presidential funds.

He said it was impossible to source the supposed funds—about P24 million for 48 governors and P95 million for 190 congressmen, assuming they each received P500,000, if anything at all—from the MOOE alone.

'She won't do that'

"OP budget is insufficient for that purpose," Andaya said, stressing a large portion of the budget had already been disbursed since January.

"Impossible, and I don't think she will do that. How do you do that?" he said. "I don't think she (President Arroyo) will do that. I don't think she can."

He said some of the lump sum funds were "not directly under OP" and that he needed clearance from the President for it to be disbursed.

Asked about Ms Arroyo's Social Fund, Andaya said: "*Possible pero hindi ko sinasabi na galing dun* (Possible, but I am not saying it came from there)."

He said there were "guidelines" on how to utilize the Social Fund "so it's not easy to (draw from it)."

Andaya said Pagcor disbursements did not pass through the Department of Budget and Management.

Contingent Fund

"I would assume they have their own accounting system. I'm not saying that the cash came from there. What I'm saying is Pagcor money doesn't pass through us," he said.

Neither could Ms Arroyo use her own money.

"Nobody is claiming that, so it can't be said that her personal money was used," said Andaya.

A former administration lawmaker, who asked not to be named due to the sensitivity of the issue, said a possible source would be the President's Contingent Fund.

"In the past, we request funds from the President's Contingent Fund," the former lawmaker said, pointing out that it was also the usual source of the President's cash gifts to lawmakers during session breaks.

It's called "*pabaon*" (sendoff gift or allowance of lawmakers as they go back to their constituencies, the source said.

"It's been the tradition, the practice," the source said, stressing the money was then brought to the districts to fund pet projects.

Bunye denial

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye insisted that Palace had no hand in the distributing of the money.

"We take the word of the League of Provinces of the Philippines, the League of Cities of the Philippines and League of Municipalities of the Philippines that none of the local chief executives who attended the oath-taking requested by Ulap received any government funds," Bunye said.

Apparently referring to Panlilio and Bulacan Gov. Joselito "Jonjon" Mendoza, who said he also got P500,000, Bunye said: "Regarding officials saying they received funds, we cannot comment since we have no firsthand knowledge of such allegations."

On Monday, Puno said that Ulap—an umbrella organization of local officials from governors down to barangay officials—should do the explaining as to where the money came from.

In Pangasinan, Ulap's president, Binalonan Mayor Ramon Guico, said in Filipino during a telephone interview: "There's no truth to that. Ulap has no money. Puno should not blame Ulap for the mess."

Guico, also president of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, said there was no way that the Ulap could give money to other local officials because "our only source of funds are the dues" from member organizations.

"Just how much are we collecting? Very minimal ... What can we give to them?" Guico said.

He said Puno should not wash his hands off the issue by pointing his finger at Ulap.

"*Ano siya sinusuwerte*? Maybe the money came from the DILG (Department of the Interior and Local Government)," Guico said.

'Corruption everywhere'

Speaker Jose de Venecia yesterday said he had no knowledge that Malacañang had distributed cash envelopes during Thursday's Palace meetings.

"It's very unfortunate that this happened," he told reporters.

De Venecia said he did not know about the alleged cash distribution because he arrived in Malacañang at around 11 a.m. that day, or about three hours after the breakfast meeting between Ms Arroyo and the congressmen started.

Speaking at the centennial commemoration of the 1907 Philippine Assembly yesterday, De Venecia expressed dismay at reports of corruption, saying there were stories of "bribery here, bribery there, bribery everywhere."

"We must now make a solemn pledge to put an end to corruption in the Philippines," he said. "Otherwise, everything will be meaningless. We will again have a cycle of boom and bust." *With reports from Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Gabriel Cardinoza, Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Panlilio sends letter to Malacañang

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

PAMPANGA GOV. EDDIE Panlilio yesterday wrote the Office of the President indicating his resolve to ferret out the truth about the source of the P500,000 given to him in Malacañang on Thursday.

The letter was delivered by messenger, according to provincial legal officer Maria Elissa Velez.

Panlilio said that his letter asked for the name of the person or office to whom the provincial government could address its acknowledgment receipt for the money that had been given to him.

Panlilio also asked for the source of the money, whether it came from the President's Social Fund, or from her calamity or intelligence fund.

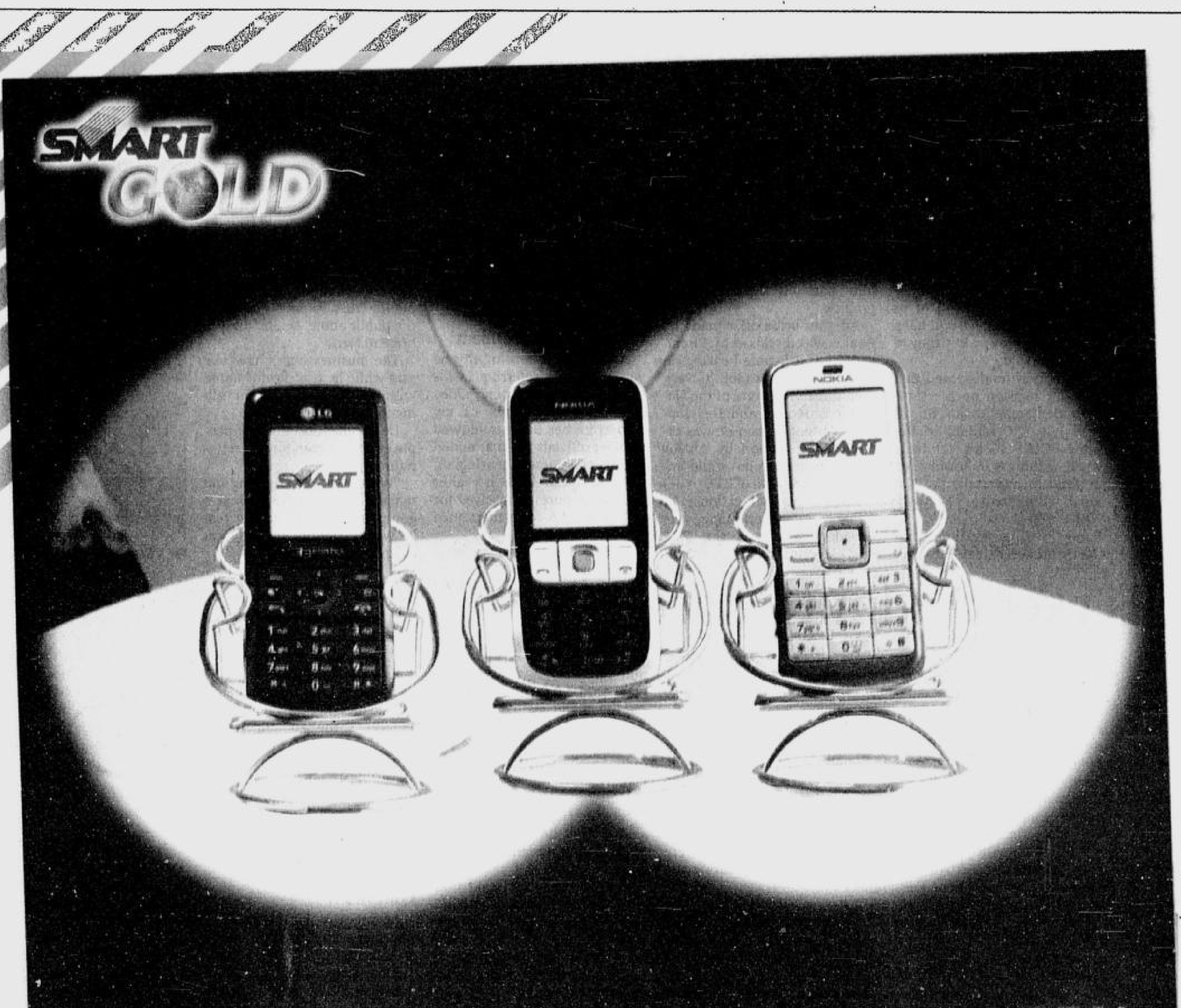
Panlilio said he had not received a call from Ms Arroyo since he revealed that he had been given money while attending a meeting at the Palace on Thursday.

At a press conference Monday, Panlilio said he took the money in the belief that he could use it for community projects and that he would return it if it was intended to be a "bribe."

Bulacan Gov. Joselito "Jonjon" Mendoza, who also received money at the Palace gathering, earlier said he had turned over the amount to Board Member Cornelio Santos, the president of the Liga ng mga Barangay in Bulacan.

Yesterday, Mendoza said he had asked Santos to return the money to his custody.

He said he would keep the money and wait for the reply of Malacanang to Panlilio's letter so he would be guided on how to use it.



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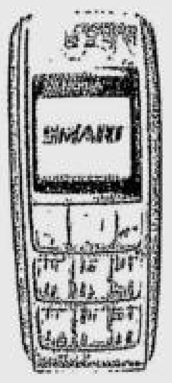
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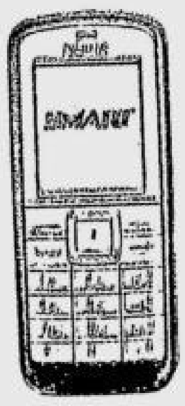
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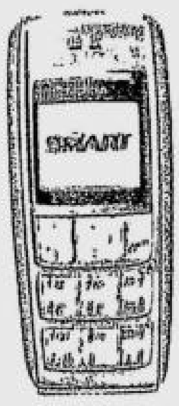
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DID YOU KNOW

IN 2006, a family of five living in Metro Manila had to earn at least P8,254 a month to sustain their minimum basic food and non-food needs, according to the National Statistical Coordination Board. Of this amount, about 60 percent is spent on basic food needs.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

Ka Bel hurt in Manila road mishap

Militant solon wants police to conduct thorough probe to dispel rubout theory

By Tina G. Santos

ANAKPAWIS REP. CRISPIN "KA BEL" BELTRAN was injured after his van was hit by a sports utility vehicle in Intramuros, Manila yesterday morning.

Although his doctor said his condition was stable, the 74-year-old party-list representative remains under observation at the Philippine General Hospital after spitting blood and experiencing continuous nose bleeding. There were also cuts near his left eye, on the bridge of his nose, and a big bruise on his left shoulder.

Despite his injuries, Beltran said he was raring to get back to work because he did not want to miss any of the developments in what he described as the "worsening scandal" over Malacañang's alleged money gifts to several congressmen, governors and other local officials.

"This is an inconvenient time to be hospitalized. I don't want to be confined for a long time again," he said, referring to his 16-month hospital arrest at the Philippine Heart Center on a rebellion case filed against him last year. The case has since been dismissed.

"This is the first time my father was involved in a serious vehicular accident. We hope this does not worsen his heart condition," said Ofelia Balleta, Beltran's daughter.

Beltran's driver, Jimmy Miranda, also remains under observation at the same hospital.

"He (Miranda) said he was dizzy and that his back aches," Balleta said. The driver also sustained bruises in the legs and feet.

The incident happened at 9:30 a.m. at the corner of Juan Luna and Victoria Streets in Intramuros. Beltran said he was on his way from his daughter's house in Bulacan to attend the Centennial Anniversary of the Inauguration of the First Philippine Assembly in Intramuros on the invitation of Speaker Jose de Venecia. Beltran said he was seated on the front passenger seat and was about to alight from his Toyota Hi-ace van when a Ford Everest driven by Bernard Madrona rammed into the left side of his car before hitting a lamppost.

"We were moving slowly because we were looking for the address when the Ford Everest hit us," the congressman said.

BELTRAN REM ZAMORA

Due to the strong impact, Beltran hit his face on the steering wheel and on the windshield.

"When I regained consciousness, there were already many people around me," he said, adding that he and Miranda were given first aid by Philippine National Red Cross employees from a nearby office. The two were brought to the PGH where they went through a series of tests.

Madrona and his woman companion were unhurt. The couple were immediately brought to the MPD Traffic Management Group at Port Area. Balleta said Madrona expressed willingness to cooperate in the investigation.

"He (Madrona) came to talk with us. He said he was coming back to see my dad," Balleta said. "He seemed apologetic, and said he was quite worried the incident could become a controversial issue," she added.

Beltran said he wants policemen to conduct a thorough investigation of the incident. "If it's an accident, then I leave it all to God," he told reporters.

If it was not, he added, "well, the government has 1,100 rea-

KA BEL/ A22

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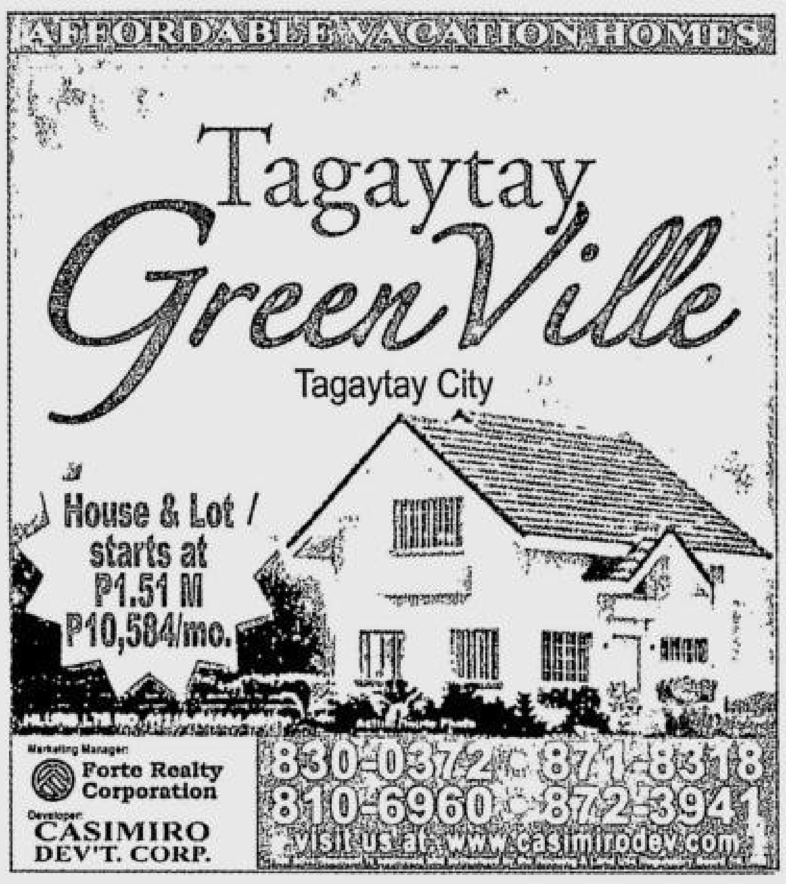

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AFTER a long-awaited test run, Valenzuela City's Tullahan Bridge was closed to vehicular traffic until after repair work on the structure is over. JOAN BONDOC

Bridge closed again for more repair work

By Margaux C. Ortiz

BARELY TWO DAYS AFTER REopening the Tullahan Bridge in Valenzuela City to light vehicles, the Department of Public Works and Highways decided to close the structure last night for more repair work.

Angelito Twano, DPWH National Capital Region assistant director, did not say when the additional improvements would be completed.

But Valenzuela Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian said he and Ed Santos, the project engineer, agreed to give the DPWH two more weeks to complete work on the bridge.

Gatchalian said he agreed to the extension on the condition that the structure would be ready after the deadline.

Twano, meanwhile, explained that Monday's reopening was only a test run to determine the structure's soundness.

"The inconveniences that the motorists experienced were normal glitches which came with our initial assessment of the bridge," he added.

The bridge which links Valenzuela to Malabon was reopened to light vehicles on Monday after more than six months of rehabilitation. Some jeeps and cars, however, got stuck in the mud as the road leading to the bridge had yet to be cemented.

This prompted Gatchalian to criticize the DPWH for the bridge's "premature opening."

Twano, however, explained that the reopening was part of their plan to help them determine possible problems with the structure's base. "It would be dangerous not to test the bridge first before laying the asphalt. A saturated base—caused by the incessant rains—could lead to a rubberized pavement," he said.

Twano added that they also discovered that both ends of the bridge's approaches were sagging and needed to be replaced.

The DPWH would have to stabilize the structure's base in the next two days by placing on it a mixture of cement and sand and a couple of boulders, he said.

He added that the whole process, including the asphalt overlay, could take several days.

"We have to repeat the process in case it rains. We have no choice because we cannot sacrifice quality over expediting the opening day," he said.

Twano likewise stressed that DPWH officials were willing to face an investigation of the alleged overpricing of materials used in building the bridge and delays in the completion of the project.

"As far as we are concerned, we only did what was right and adhered to the bridge specifications," he said.

The P63-million bridge, originally set to be completed last June, was opened to pedestrians in late September.

The DPWH was criticized for the delays in construction and alleged anomalies in the implementation of the project, such as the use of overpriced materials and the awarding of the project to a contractor who had allegedly been blacklisted.

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Metro barangays under tight watch for Oct. polls

By Alcuin Papa

THE METRO MANILA POLICE will be keeping an eye on several barangays in Quezon City, and Pasay, Muntinlupa and Taguig cities for violent incidents that could happen in connection with the Oct. 29 barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

But Chief Supt. Eric Javier, National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) deputy chief for administration, said they do not yet consider these areas election "hotspots" based on the guidelines issued by the Commission on Elections.

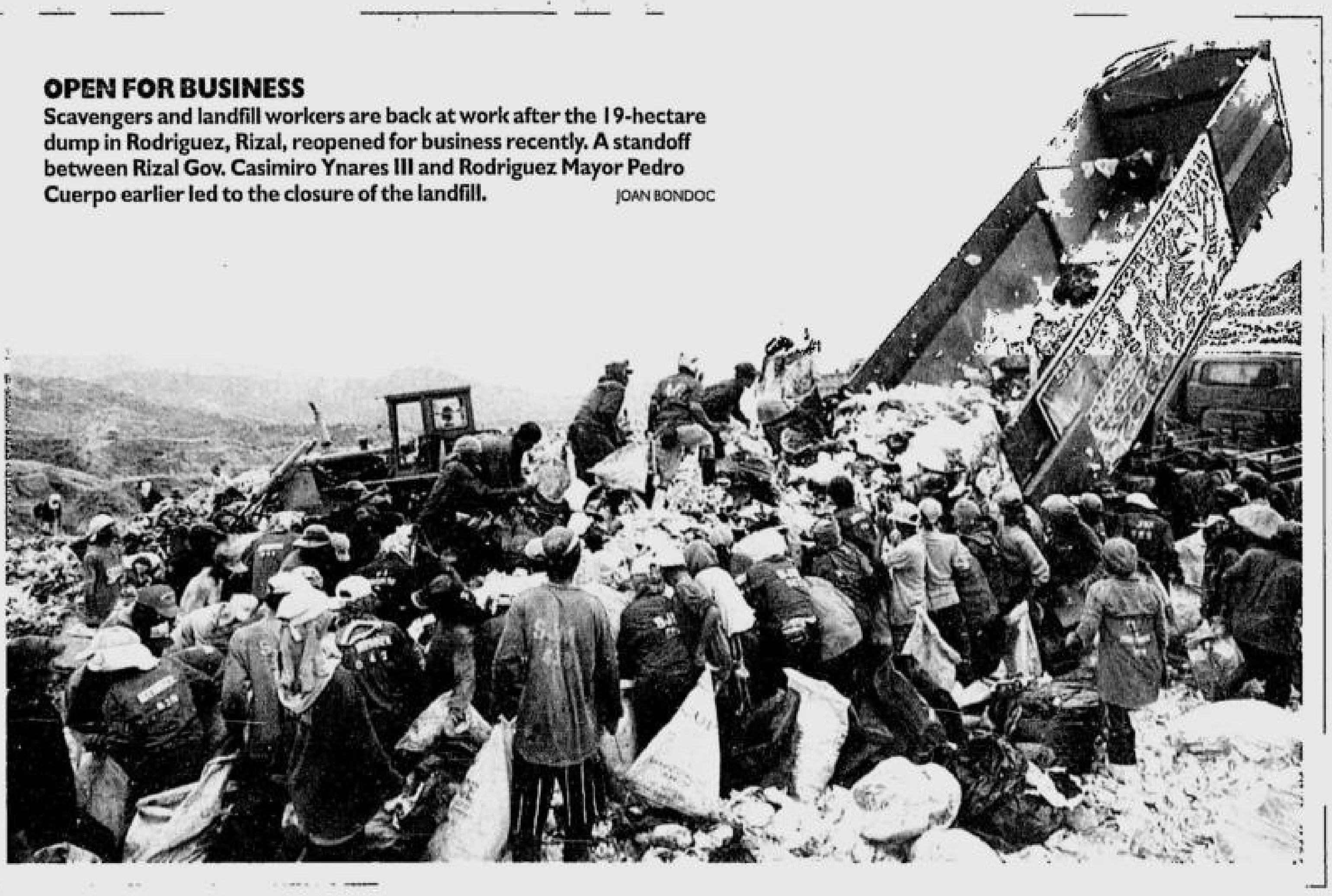
He was referring to Barangays Payatas, Commonwealth, Holy Spirit and Batasan in Quezon City; Maharlika Village in Taguig; Putatan in Muntinlupa and Maricaban and Malibay in Pasay.

Javier described these areas as "highly populated, normally depressed" and where political tension runs high during elections.

Around 8,000 policemen would be deployed for security operations during the synchronized elections, Javier said.

The PNP was deputized by the Comelec to make sure that the Oct. 29 polls are honest, orderly and peaceful.

Part of the measures being implemented by the national police is a Comelec-imposed nationwide gun ban which took effect last Sept. 29 and will be enforced until Nov. 13.



OPEN FOR BUSINESS
Scavengers and landfill workers are back at work after the 19-hectare dump in Rodriguez, Rizal, reopened for business recently. A standoff between Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares III and Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo earlier led to the closure of the landfill. JOAN BONDOC

Depositor identifies QC bank suspect

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

A WOMAN WHO ROBBED A branch of the United Coconut Planters Bank in Quezon City, along with five men on Monday morning, has been positively identified by a bank depositor.

Through a picture grab from footage taken by the bank's close circuit cameras, one of the victims, a resident of San Juan City, identified the woman suspect as Annaliza Sales.

In the picture, the woman is seen holding a gun.

Capt. JR Ingco of the Quezon City Police District, one of the case's lead investigators, said a check of their records showed that Sales was allegedly involved in other bank robberies.

She was reportedly a member of the Amparo Group, a kidnap for ransom syndicate, he added.

Six armed robbers barged into the UCPB branch on E. Rodriguez corner Judge Jimenez Streets in Barangay Pinagkaisahan, Cubao, Quezon City at 10:30 a.m. Monday.

They ordered everyone inside the establishment to lie face down on the floor as they emptied the tellers' drawers of cash and took the money and cell phones of depositors.

According to Ingco, their investigation showed that the suspects took off with P500,000 in cash, but added that they were still waiting for the bank's audit team to complete their findings.

Authorities said the suspects failed to open the vault because it was equipped with a time delay system. Among the valuables the suspects took were eight cell phones worth P100,000, and the bank security guard's shotgun and cal. .38 revolver.

Teen 'Akyat Bahay' members rob Marikina home

By Nancy C. Carvajal

SEVEN BOYS AGED 13 AND 17 said to be members of the "Akyat Bahay" gang were placed in the custody of the Department of Social Welfare and Development after they were caught robbing the house of an overseas Filipino worker (OFW) in Marikina City over the weekend.

Senior Supt. Sotero Ramos, city police chief, said the boys were arrested with the gang leader, Rolando Carmona, 33, of Taguile St., Marikina Heights.

"We had to turn them over to a social worker for counseling together with their parents," Ramos said.

Carmona and the boys were caught in the act of robbing the house of Alfred Reyes, an OFW, also of Marikina Heights, at dawn Sunday.

Based on their investigation, Ramos said Carmona ordered the teenagers to climb up the roof of the victim's house and from there, try to open a door through which the rest of the gang could enter.

Taken from the victim's house were 15 watches, expensive digital cameras, a radio and speakers, DVD players and an entertainment home theater set.

Also stolen were the victim's coin purse, piggy bank and clothes.

Ramos said the boys were hired to help the syndicate enter their target houses because of their size.

"They are lean and small and could easily fit into tight spaces and climb windows and roofs without much noise because of their lighter weight," he added.

He said the boys were also taught by the syndicates to spot valuable things and to act as lookouts.

Under Republic Act 9344, children in conflict with the law who are below the age of criminal responsibility, or those 15 years of age or below are to be immediately released by the police to the custody of the social welfare department before they are turned over to the children's parents, guardians or nearest relative.

Poetry in motion awaits Metro's train riders

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

PASSENGERS OF THE LIGHT Rail Transit Lines 1 and Line 2 are in for an entertaining and informative ride.

The Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) has started putting up in its trains posters containing poems written in Spanish and Filipino and decorated with colorful pictures.

"Berso sa Metro (Verse in the Metro)," an innovative campaign which aims to encourage reading among Filipino commuters, was launched yesterday to strengthen the ties between the Philippines and Spain and to pay tribute to some of the best poets from the Philippines, Spain and other Latin American countries.

"Not only would this keep the passengers from getting bored, they would actually be learning something while in transit," Jose Rodriguez, director of Instituto Cervantes de Manila (ICDM), told the INQUIRER.

INSTITUTO Cervantes director Jose Rodriguez shows Berso sa Metro posters. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

"With almost one million commuters riding the train every day, it provides a great opportunity for the reading campaign to reach as many people as possible," Rodriguez said, adding that this is a "defining moment" in the history of educational campaigns.

The selection of poems include the work of Filipinos led by national hero Jose Rizal, Jesús Balmori, Claro M. Recto, José Palma, Evangelina Guerrero, Pacifico Victoriano and Fernando Maria Guerrero; Spanish poets Calderón de la Barca, Lope de Vega, García Lorca, Antonio Machado, Luis Cernuda, Luis Rosales, Miguel Hernández and Gil de Biedma; and Latin American writers Pablo Neruda and César Vallejo.

"Commuters would now have something to ponder on when they ride the LRT. Reading celebrated poems is a very worthwhile activity to do," Mel Robles, LRTA administrator, told the INQUIRER.

He said the reading campaign would run for about three months and could be extended depending on the response of the public.

For those who do not understand Spanish, a Filipino translation was posted alongside the Spanish version.

The campaign was organized by the LRTA, ICDM and the Committee for the Filipino-Spanish Friendship Day.

The ICDM is the cultural arm of the Spanish government that promotes and teaches the Spanish language and culture in the country. It is the largest Spanish teaching organization worldwide, operating in more than 70 countries in four continents.

2 women recount ordeal as sex slaves in Saudi Arabia

By Jeannette I. Andrade

NEARLY THREE YEARS AFTER they were allegedly turned into sex slaves by a Saudi Arabian prince, Lina, 19 and Anna, 20, (not their real names) are still seeking justice and asking the government for help.

Breaking their silence for the first time in more than two years, the two young women talked about their ordeal at a press conference yesterday organized by the Kanlungan Center Foundation Inc. and the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW) Asia-Pacific in Quezon City.

"I want to get justice. I want to tell other women from the provinces that this can happen when they seek greener pastures abroad," Anna said.

The two said they were promised jobs as chamber maids in a hotel in Saudi Arabia in January 2005.

Anna recounted how she was driven into applying for a job abroad because she wanted to help her family in Cagayan de Oro.

The two claimed they were taken to a hotel owned by the prince where he allegedly raped them repeatedly. They added that they were lucky they were able to return home after a few months.

Both blamed the agency which recruited them, saying its officials lied about their age to allow them to leave the country. It also tried to cover up the case, they added.

Jean Gutierrez of CATW Asia-Pacific said most of those who exploit women take advantage of desperate overseas job seekers.

"Hundreds of women, like Anna and Lina, with the simple desire to alleviate their plights are being exploited by recruiters," Gutierrez pointed out, stressing that the two women have been receiving threats simply because they are seeking justice.

The CATW Asia-Pacific executive director revealed that the victims have been charged with estafa, libel and perjury by the recruitment agency.

Loida Bernabe of the Kanlungan Center, meanwhile, lamented that the secretary of the department whom their group approached to seek assistance even blamed the Lina and Anna's parents for their daughters' misfortune.

"They are the victims but now, they are considered criminals by the government agencies," Bernabe said.

Lina's mother said they went to the Department of Foreign Affairs and then to the Department of Justice for help, "but nobody helped us."

"We just want justice for what happened to our daughter and her friend. They may pay us off to try to stop our crusade, but we will never allow that. We do not want this thing to ever happen to anybody else," the victim's father, a taxi driver, stressed.

Ka Bel . . .

From page A21

sons for seeing I am out of the way, including this accident," Beltran said.

The solon recently exposed an alleged P2 million bribe offer made to him by an administration supporter in exchange for endorsing the new impeachment complaint filed against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"We cannot rule out the possibility that the incident may have something to do with my exposé. There has been a continuous attempt to shut me up, but I won't stop," he said.

Taguig gov't worker nabbed for extortion

By Julie M. Aurelio

AN EMPLOYEE OF THE TAGUIG City Hall was arrested Monday afternoon for allegedly trying to extort P8,000 from a couple in exchange for a marriage certificate.

Caught in an entrapment operation was Soledad Cruz, 56, formerly assigned at the City Hall Civil Registrar's Office. She was charged by the police with robbery and extortion in the City Prosecutor's Office yesterday.

Mayor Freddie Tiñga, meanwhile, warned other employees against following Cruz's example.

"Let this be a stern warning that we will never tolerate anyone who uses their position to take advantage of the public," Tiñga said.

An initial investigation revealed that Cruz, who had been transferred to the treasury department, reportedly facilitated the processing of documents needed by a couple about to be married.

The suspect was arrested early Monday afternoon after receiving P5,000 in marked money from Ted Wayne Harjo, 32, an American citizen based in California, and his wife, Manelyn R. Serida, 24, of Salong St., Barangay Western Bicutan.

The couple said the suspect demanded P8,000 from them in exchange for the marriage certificate, but they were only able to give her P3,000.

Harjo added that Cruz even told them that the marriage certificate would not be released unless the remaining P5,000 was paid. Bothered about the excessive fee, the couple decided to seek Tiñga's help.

The mayor then ordered Taguig City chief of police, Supt. Alfred Corpus, to conduct an entrapment operation. Chief Insp. Celso Rodriguez of the investigation division led the operation.

Cruz has denied the accusations of the couple. A check with the Civil Registrar's Office revealed that the office only charges P240 for the processing of marriage documents.

METROBRIEFS

Vandal charged

A MAN allegedly high on solvent was arrested by the Manila police for reportedly destroying P150,000 worth of lamps on Nagtahan Bridge on Sunday night. SPO3 Amador Jareno of the Manila City Hall Special Operations Group said Michael Rubio, 23, of Otis Street, Paco, was caught by two barangay officials punching the railing lights on the bridge at around 11:30 p.m. Rubio, who also appeared to be drunk, tried to run away but tripped, resulting in his arrest. He was brought to the Ospital ng Maynila for the treatment of his wounds before the police took him into custody. On Monday, Rubio was charged with malicious mischief in the City Prosecutor's Office for damaging 30 lamps that cost P5,000 each.

Allison W. Lopez

Missing teenager

KAREN Quiñabano, a 14-year-old girl, has been reported missing by her guardian and uncle, Edgar Bacalso. She was last seen on her way to Hi-Top Supermarket on Quezon Avenue. She was wearing a green T-shirt, a pair of shorts and slippers. She comes from Negros Occidental and stands around 5'2". Anyone with information on her whereabouts can call or text 0906-7133394 or 0905-9166114.

Book launching set

DR. RUDY G. Ibañez will launch his book titled, "Class 55: Memories to Remember" at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 19 at Fully Booked, B6 Bonifacio High Street, Global City, Taguig. According to the author, former top executive of United Laboratories and an alumnus of Arellano High School, "the book chronicles the hopes and dreams, successes and failures, and the lessons learned along the way of the most celebrated batch in (Arellano High School) history." Among the prominent members of Class '55 are Supreme Court Justice Cancio Garcia, Court of Appeals Presiding Justice Conrado Vasquez Jr., Ibañez, businessman Jaime Ladao, former Mapua alumni president Dolly Lim and Journal Group of Publications editor in chief Augusto "Gus" Villanueva.

WORLDBRIEFS

Quakes hit NZ

WELLINGTON—Aftershocks rattled New Zealand's South Island on Tuesday up to 10 hours after a magnitude 6.8 earthquake struck the area, New Zealand seismologists said. Six aftershocks, the strongest measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale, followed the original shake, which was centered 60 kilometers west of the isolated tourist settlement of Milford Sound, off the south-west coast of the South Island. The first quake was at a depth of 24 km, but was felt widely throughout the bottom half of the South Island. *Reuters*

Prisoner swap

NAQOURA, LEBANON—Israel and Hezbollah exchanged the remains of an Israeli civilian on Monday for a captive Lebanese guerrilla and the bodies of two comrades in a UN-brokered deal. Lebanese sources and Israeli officials said Hezbollah handed over the remains of Gabriel Dwait, an Ethiopian immigrant who drowned in January 2005. A Lebanese source said his body had been washed to the Lebanese coast where fishermen found it and handed it over to Hezbollah. Israel freed prisoner Hassan Naim Aqil, a Hezbollah fighter captured in the 2006 war, and handed over the bodies of Ali Wizwaz and Mohammed Damashqiah, who had apparently been taken to Israel after they died in the fighting in Lebanon. *Reuters*

Border tensions

BAGHDAD—Tensions mounted along the Iraqi-Turkish border on Monday as the Turkish government sought parliamentary approval for military raids into northern Iraq. The vote in Parliament would permit Turkish armed forces to cross the border in pursuit of Kurdish rebels who launch attacks into Turkey from the Kurdish region of Iraq. The rebels, members of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, known as the PKK, have taken refuge in mountain redoubts on the Iraqi side of the border. They are separatists who want an autonomous Kurdish region in the far eastern part of Turkey. The Iraqi government urged Turkey on Monday to seek a diplomatic solution. *NYT*

Oil prices hit new record, nears $88

LONDON—OIL THUNDERED towards $88 a barrel on Tuesday, hitting a new record and extending a rally that has added $8 in as many days on tight supplies, strong demand and tension in northern Iraq.

Oil is closing in on the inflation-adjusted high of $90.46 seen in 1980, the year after the Iranian revolution and at the start of the Iran-Iraq war. Prices this year have averaged $67.

At 0850 GMT US crude was up $1.42 at $87.55, off a high of $87.97. London Brent was up $1.15 at $83.90.

Oil has set a series of records over the past three days.

Investors have cited rising tensions between Turkey and Kurdish separatists in northern Iraq, sturdy world energy demand growth, tight inventories in consumer nations heading into winter and unprecedented weakness in the US dollar.

"It is difficult to find any bearish factors now. There's the Iraq-Turkey issue, a weak dollar, and inventory levels for US heating oil are much lower than a year ago," said Tetsu Emori, fund manager at Japan's Astmax Futures Co. Ltd.

US distillate inventories, including those for heating fuel, are expected to ease by 300,000 barrels for the week ended Oct. 12, a Reuters poll ahead of the release of the Energy Information Administration's weekly data showed.

The latest flurry of buying extends the market's rise from below $70 in mid-August, a rally fueled by the record lows in the US dollar, sturdy world energy demand growth and tight consumer nation inventories heading into the winter.

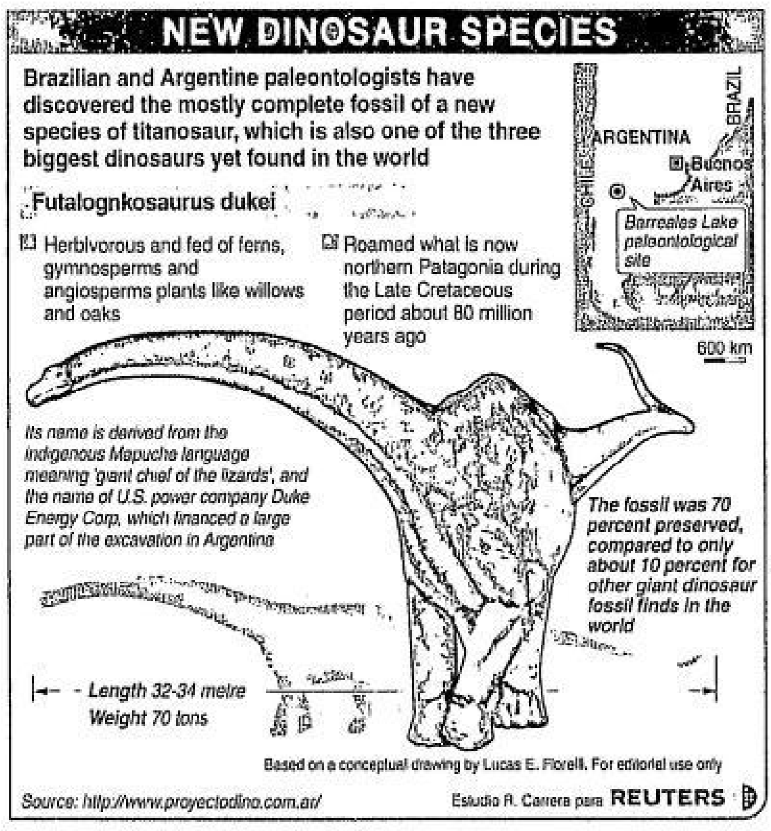
A possible Turkish military attack against Kurdish separatists in Iraq has more recently spurred buying as dealers fear a possible disruption to regional oil supplies.

The Turkish cabinet asked parliament on Monday for permission to launch the attack. Iraqi oil exports via Turkey have been sporadic since 2003, although Turkey is also now a major conduit for Caspian oil exports to the Mediterranean.

"It's mainly driven by the situation on the Turkey-Iraq border at the moment and the uncertainty that surrounds it," said Tobin Gorey, a commodities strategist at Australia's Commonwealth Bank. "The market is paying for that uncertainty now." *Reuters*

NEW DINOSAUR SPECIES

Brazilian and Argentine paleontologists have discovered the mostly complete fossil of a new species of titanosaur, which is also one of the three biggest dinosaurs yet found in the world


Futalognkosaurus dukei
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Roamed what is now northern Patagonia during the Late Cretaceous period about 80 million years ago
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BRAZIL
CHILE
Buenos Aires
Barreales Lake paleontological site
600 km
Its name is derived from the indigenous Mapuche language meaning 'giant chief of the lizards', and the name of U.S. power company Duke Energy Corp, which financed a large part of the excavation in Argentina
The fossil was 70 percent preserved, compared to only about 10 percent for other giant dinosaur fossil finds in the world
Length 32-34 metre
Weight 70 tons

Based on a conceptual drawing by Lucas E. Fiorell. For editorial use only

Source: http://www.proyectodino.com.ar/ Estudio R. Carrera para REUTERS

New dinosaur species found

RIO DE JANEIRO—PALEONTOLOGISTS from Argentina and Brazil on Monday unveiled a new giant dinosaur species that lived 88 millions of years ago in the Patagonia region of Argentina, where they found its fossils.

"It is one of the three largest dinosaur fossils ever discovered in the world and the most complete because we found 70 percent of its skeleton," Argentina's Comahue National University Paleontology Center director Jorge Calvo told reporters.

Belonging to the Titanosaur family, the newly discovered member of the Lognkosauria genus measured 32-34 meters and lived exclusively in Patagonia. *AFP*

American trio wins 2007 Nobel for economics

STOCKHOLM—A RUSSIAN-born academic who escaped both the Communist revolution and the horrors of World War II became the oldest person to win a Nobel Prize on Monday, garnering a joint award for a pioneering market theory.

Leonid Hurwicz, 90, and fellow Americans Eric Maskin and Roger Myerson, won the 2007 Nobel in economics for laying the foundations of a theory that determines which market-based systems work best.

A bemused-sounding Hurwicz, who has taught at the University of Minnesota since 1951 after moving to the United States to escape World War II, said he had not expected to win.

"On the contrary, I thought that my time perhaps had passed already," the American citizen said in a telephone interview.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said the award honored the trio's work on "mechanism design theory," which assesses how well different institutions fare in allocating resources and the need for government intervention.

The theory was the brainchild of Hurwicz, who was born in Moscow the year of the Russian revolution. Maskin of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton and Myerson of the University of Chicago refined and tested his ideas.

Maskin was born in 1950 and Myerson in 1951, the same year Hurwicz joined the faculty of Minnesota, a school less-noted than "Ivy League" institutions for innovative research.

Maskin, who has an applied mathematics doctorate from Harvard, said he was relieved to find all three of them had won.

"I guess my first thought when I heard Hurwicz was one of the winners was a sense of relief. Hurwicz has been a candidate for many years and he's now 90 years old and time was running out," Maskin said in a telephone conference with journalists.

"It was a tremendous thrill to hear that he won and to share the prize with him and with Myerson. Our friendship goes back to university time." The academy said mechanism design theory now plays a central role in many areas of economics and parts of political science. *Reuters*

MASKIN AFP

MYERSON AP

HURWICZ AP

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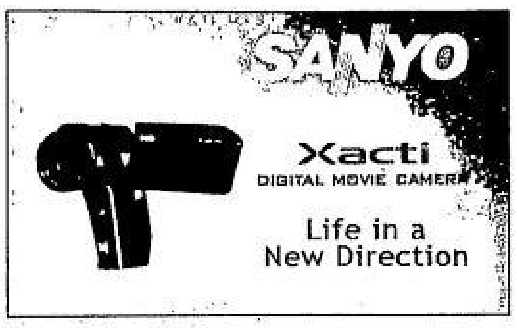
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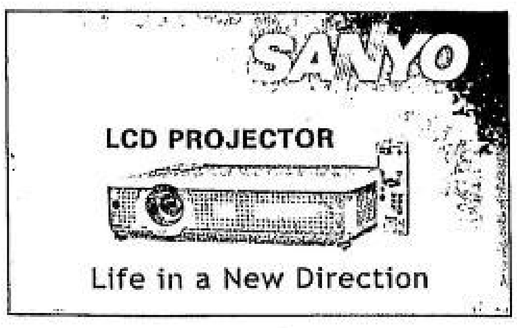
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HAIRLOSS EXPERTS IN AMERICA REVEAL FRIGHTENING FACTS

Men Going Bald Lose One Hair Every 15 Minutes!

Recent research from top trichologists in the USA reveals that the rate of a man's hairloss can reach about 35,000 hairs a year on a baldness-prone head. That means, when receding and thinning are at their peak, a man on his way to baldness is losing one hair approximately every fifteen minutes!

As most men prior to experiencing any hairloss have a total scalp cover of 100,000 to 150,000 hairs or more, a mere four disappearing every hour don't get noticed - until it's too late. Based on these figures it's easy to see how it takes only 3-5 years for a 30-year old man to be bald by the time he's 34 - if he does nothing about it.

Why is it that so many men let themselves go bald - when there's enough time at the beginning of the hairloss process to get expert advice and the right trichological treatments? It seems there are a number of reasons, the main one being unawareness of what is available at professional hair-and-scalp care centres. The best known is Svenson, which has been in the business of controlling hairloss for over twenty-five years across Asia and around the world. Svenson is where people go when they don't want to go bald.

If it really disturbs you that you're losing one hair every fifteen minutes, it makes a lot of sense to call Svenson for an appointment. It costs nothing to have a qualified trichologist analyze your hair and scalp. You'll learn the cause of your hairloss and what the right treatments can do. And you'll discover how your hair and scalp can be optimized for maximum growth potential.

Don't wait another 15 minutes and one more hair, call Svenson now for a no-cost consultation today. Telephone 892-4247/ 234-0851 (Cebu).

Without treatment this man will likely be totally bald in just 2-3 years.

Burma junta defiant, won't back down

Japan cuts aid, EU widens sanctions

RANGOON—BURMA'S (MYANMAR'S) MILITARY JUNTA ON Tuesday shrugged off international steps to punish the regime for its bloody crackdown on protests, even as Japan cut aid and European nations widened sanctions.

State media insisted there were no political prisoners in the country, and criticized a UN Security Council statement slamming the violence used to quell the biggest anti-government protests in nearly two decades.

The response came amid growing international pressure on the regime to halt its repression and launch talks with the pro-democracy opposition led by Aung San Suu Kyi.

Japan, one of Burma's main donors, said on Tuesday it was canceling grants of about $4.7 million over the fatal shooting of a Japanese journalist when security forces put down last month's huge protests.

On Monday, European Union foreign ministers approved a new set of sanctions against the junta including an embargo on the export of wood, gems and metals, and threatened further penalties.

US President George W. Bush, whose country has imposed targeted sanctions against junta leaders, called for "enormous international pressure, to make it clear to the generals that they will be completely isolated and not accepted into the international community."

But Burma vowed to resist, saying in state media that: "We will march on. There is no reason to change the course." "We will remove all the hindrances and obstacles that may lie ahead," the official New Light of Myanmar daily said.

The newspaper criticized last week's Security Council statement deploring the crackdown and calling for the release of political prisoners.

"The situation in Burma does not constitute a threat to the regional and international peace and security," it said.

"In reality, there is no one in Burma who is in prison for political reasons. There are only those against whom action has been taken in violation of the existing laws." It added: "Anti-government groups inside and outside the nation are making and exaggerating fabricated news to create public panic." Last month's protests led by Buddhist monks drew up to 100,000 people onto the streets in what escalated into the most potent threat to the regime since student-led demonstrations were crushed in 1988.

But they were violently broken up by troops and riot police in an operation that left at least 13 people dead and more than 2,000 locked up.

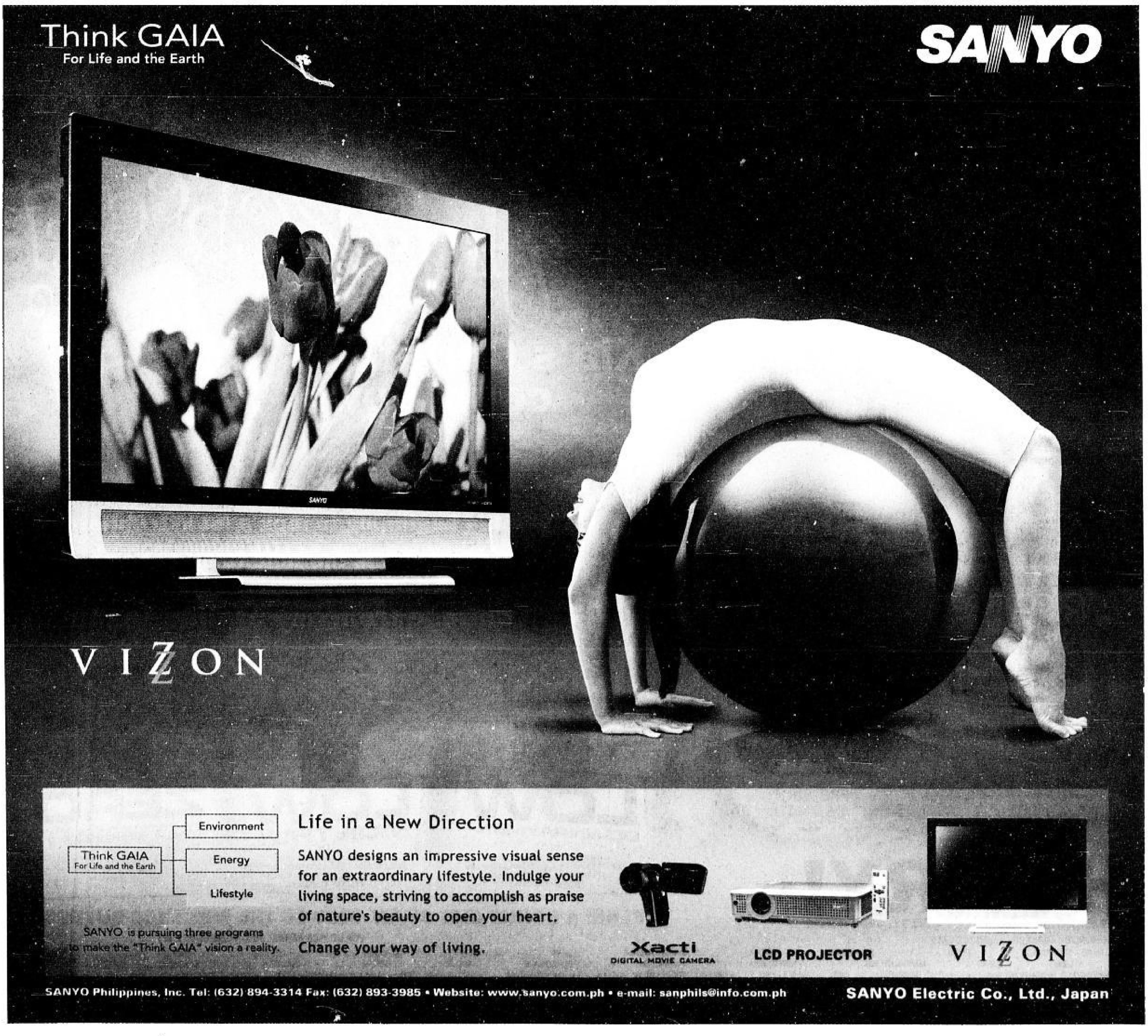
The United Nations sent Ibrahim Gambari, a top trouble-shooter, to Burma after the crackdown to meet junta chief Than Shwe and Aung San Suu Kyi, who is held in detention at her Yangon home.

Gambari returned to the region Monday at the start of a regional tour aimed at building pressure on the regime, saying in Bangkok that reports of further arrests of activists were "extremely disturbing."

Since the start of October, Than Shwe has made a heavily conditioned offer of direct talks with Aung San Suu Kyi provided she drops support for sanctions and ends "confrontational" policies.

The regime has also eased its curfew and restored Internet access that had been cut off during the protests.

At the same time, security forces have kept up the pressure on dissidents, arresting six more activists at the weekend, according to rights group Amnesty International. *AFP*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WHAT'S INSIDE

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Here come the Rockies/A28

Intact Phone Pals face Aces today

IF THE MATERIALS YOU'VE GOT DON'T CANCEL OUT the other team, it might be best to talk about motivation.

This is the strategy coach Tim Cone will use when his Alaska Aces battle the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals, the team they beat in last season's Fiesta Cup Finals, today in the PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

"We know they're (Phone Pals) going to be motivated with a complete lineup," said Cone. "Our motivation will be to beat them again."

Since that championship run, nothing much has changed for the Aces except the addition of some promising rookies.

On the other hand, the Phone Pals have welcomed back their vaunted scoring trio of Jimmy Alapag, Asi Taulava and Renren Ritualo, whose stints in the national team added new dimensions to their games.

GAMES TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:30 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Purefoods
7:20 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Alaska

Their return has gotten everybody talking—the Aces might take a near-perfect game to squeeze past the Phone Pals in the 7:20 p.m. match.

Purefoods and Sta. Lucia Realty collide earlier at 4:30 p.m. with the TJ Hotdogs out to reclaim the All-Filipino crown they relinquished last season.

After failing to barge into the Final Four in two conferences last year due to injuries to its key players, Purefoods now parades a healthy roster beefed up by new acquisition Romel Adducul.

The Realtors also have an intact roster with Kelly Williams, who had a fantastic rookie season and stint with the RP team, expected to be the man to watch.

Despite their tough lineup, coach Derek Pumaren thinks that his Phone Pals are far from being invulnerable.

"We know what Alaska can do, so we'll just have to be ready for them," said Pumaren.

The Aces seemed susceptible to attack after losing key player Nic Belasco, whose intensity in the paint Cone hopes to get from freshmen Kenneth Bono and JR Quiñahan, a pair of bulky 6-foot-5s snagged in the draft.

Belasco was shipped to Welcoat in exchange for Jun-Jun Cabatu and a future pick during the off-season. *June Navarro*

Fil-Am, Vega sparkle as RP-Cebuana bests Thais

FIL-AM VICKY BRICK AND VETERAN Emelia Vega provided the spunk and the clutch baskets as the Philippines-Cebuana women's team downed host Thailand, 80-76, Monday night in the South East Asian Basketball (Seaba) championship in Phuket.

Brick, a 5-foot-7 guard who played for the Maryland Terps in the US NCAA, topscored for the Filipinos with 18 points while Vega, the team skipper, canned three of four free throws in the dying seconds to key the come-from-behind win.

The Filipinas, formed just two months ago, trailed by two points in the first half, 34-32, and by as many as seven in the third quarter before Brick triggered the comeback with hard drives to the basket.

"The girls played a tough defense on their taller opponents throughout the game," said head coach Fritz Gaston.

Still behind by a point with 40 seconds left, Vega, who contributed nine points, came through with the crucial charities.

Other scorers for RP-Cebuana were Dixie Valencia and Aurora Adriano, who chipped in 11 points apiece, Joan Grajales with 10, UAAP MVP Cassie Tioseco with 7, Pipay Villanueva with 3 and Fil-Nigerian Ewon Arayi with 1.

Other opening-day games saw Malaysia dump Indonesia, 99-58, and Thailand rout Singapore, 98-56.

The Philippines will play Indonesia Tuesday night and Singapore on Wednesday night. The Filipinos will battle the Malaysians, the reigning Southeast Asian Games titlists, on Thursday.

Friday will see the crossover knockout games among the four semifinalists, with the top team taking on No. 4 and the second-ranked team battling No. 3.

"Even in our practice, I already had an idea how the girls were feeling," said Gaston, a former PBA cager and Ateneo coach. "They were very intense."

RP-Cebuana team manager Jean Henri Lhuillier said the girls' heart and desire keyed the win.

"What they lacked in height, these girls certainly more than made up for it with a lot of heart," said Lhuillier.

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Liga Pilipinas merges 2 regional cage tourneys; Eala resurfaces

By Francis T. J. Ochoa

A NEW BASKETBALL LEAGUE, ONE which casts a bright eye at the future and a wary one at the past, was born yesterday following the announcement that two regional basketball tournaments have decided to merge.

It will be called Liga Pilipinas.

And at the forefront of the merger is a basketball personality who knows a thing or two about running a league and unifying two separate entities.

"Liga Pilipinas will be the new face of the effort to unify regional basketball in the country," said Noli Eala, former PBA commissioner and one of the key personalities behind the merger of the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas and the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

The league will be formed on a merger between the Mindanao Visayas Basketball Association and the National Basketball Conference. The two leagues have agreed to work toward a goal that will actually call for the dissolution of their tournaments.

"There's no use really having two separate leagues to operate under a similar purpose," said Olympian Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla.

Also present during the launch were Yayoy Alcoseba and Willie Generalao, who represented the MVBA, Tagaytay Mayor Bambol Tolentino and Tito Palma of the NBC, Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno and Andrew Te, part of the organizing group.

The idea of a regional basketball tournament was first put to test by the Metropolitan Basketball Association in 1998. But the MBA crumbled five years later under the weight of excessive spending.

"We do not want to be hounded by mistakes of the past," Eala said. "We do not want to commit the same follies."

Although the league will start in the first quarter next year, several principles have already been agreed upon, among which is to curb expenditures.

Eala said a team in the new league will cost less than maintaining a PBL squad. In fact, running the league will cost less than half of what it takes to maintain a PBA squad for a year.

"I see it working on an annual budget of P10 to 12 million," Eala said. "But I always try to find ways to cut costs so there's a chance we can really, really go lower than that."

LA SALLE'S Maria Carla Llag
Christine Joy Magcanlas and J

Bata, Django spark Pinoy bets' romp in US Open

POOL MAESTRO EFREN "BATA" REYES, Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Alex Pagulayan hurdled their respective rivals to join seven other Filipinos in the winning column at the start of the 32nd Annual US Open 9-Ball in Chesapeake, Virginia, yesterday.

Reyes, the 1999 Cardiff World 9-ball champion, trounced Jim Faircloth, 11-3, while former world No. 1 Bustamante crushed David Rowell, 11-4, as they duplicated Pagulayan's 11-3 conquest of Carsten Due.

Other Filipino victors were current WPA 9-ball and 8-ball titlist Ronato Alcano, Lee Vann Corteza, Rodolfo Luat, Jose Parica, Warren Kiamco, Dennis Orcollo and Edwin Montal.

Reyes arranged a second-round clash with Marc Vidal, an 11-6 winner over Tommy Hernandez, while Bustamante forged a meeting with Richie Orem, who drew a first-round bye.

Pagulayan, the 2004 Taiwan World 9-ball champion, will next face Frank Alvarez, who beat Mark Pantovic, 11-5.

Alcano routed Ryan Hershman, 11-2; Corteza dumped Shawn Keaton, 11-4; Luat bested Hunter Lobardo, 11-5; Parica blanked John Harris, 11-0; Kiamco nipped Georgio Margola, 11-10; Orcollo prevailed via default over Cliff Joyner; while Montal drew a bye.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

SPORTSWATCH

So settles for draw; Salvador up

FILIPINO WESLEY SO FINALLY STOPPED HIS skid Monday night, drawing with fellow IM Tamas Banusz of Hungary in the penultimate round of the World Juniors and Girls Chess Championships in Yerevan, Armenia. So, reeling from back-to-back losses from the 10th round, raised his total to 6.5 points and shared 22nd to 36th places in the Boy's 20-under division being led by Grandmasters Ahmed Adly of Egypt and Ivan Popov of Russia. ***Marlon Bernardino, Contributor***

80 tiffs up at Pasig Square today

COCKERS AND BREEDERS FROM THE PROVinces converge today at the Pasig Square Garden for the Pit Games Magazine 12th Anniversary 4-Stag Derby. The first of more than 80 matches gets going at 3 p.m. The list of participants includes 2007 World Slasher Cup champion Wilson Ong, Danilo Hinlo, Mayor Juancho Aguirre and Noel Debulgado. Host Manny Berbano has staked a guaranteed prize of P400,000.

Stag Championship set at PCC

SELECTED STAGS THAT WON IN RECENT DERbies see action again in the 110K Stag Championship 6-stag derby on Friday at the Pasay City Cockpit. Backed by Sagupaan Complexor, this one-day event is hosted by Gerry Ramos and the Firefly group. Pit managers Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano said the highest scorer after six fights will win the title.

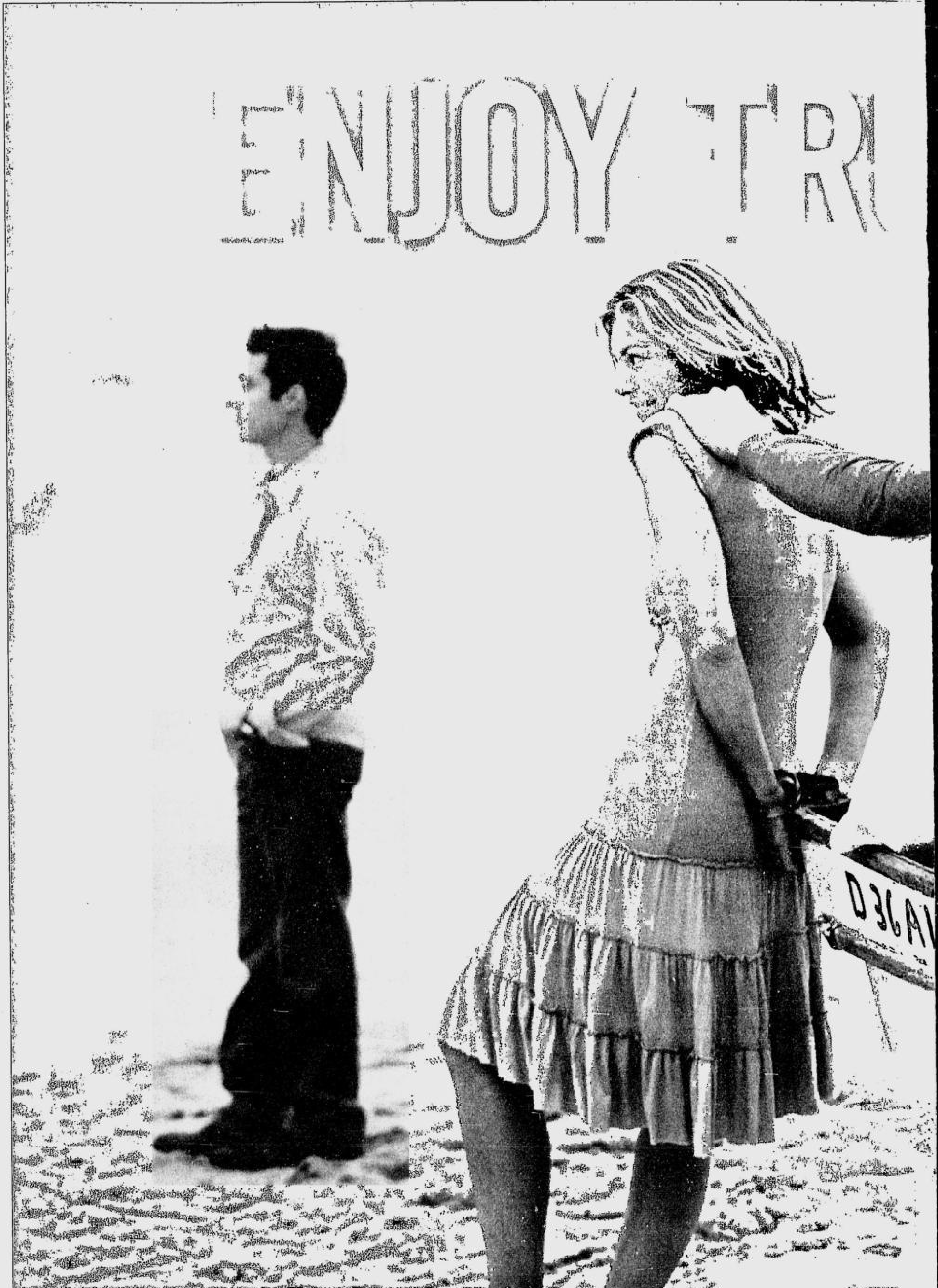
Lagba derby gets going at SJC

MEMBERS OF THE LAGUNA GAMEFOWL BREEDers Association (Lagba) gird up for battle today in a 5-stag derby featuring some 70 fights at the San Juan Coliseum. This will be the second of four derbies lined up by Lagba. More than 150 breeders comprise the group, headed by its board of directors Sonny Lagon, Jun Mendoza, Jimmy Karingal, Peter Uren, Joey Lapid, Boy Marzo and Joey Lapid.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Sinner of Saint (1), Devil in Disguise (2), Extreme Machine (3), Memory of Fire (6)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Way To Go Heza (4), Showgirl (2), Beuna's Hope (3), Taste N'See (1)
Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Lovable Trisha (11), Collective Dreams (4), Something Silver (7), Guts (1), Playing Cool (9)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Prima Vera (6), Crew Cut (4), Silent Operator (1), Camberwell Beauty/Princess Ashley (2)
Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Bull Rock (10), Lord Elgene (9), Crystal City (3), Getting Personal (4), Fear Me Not (1)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Please Don't Stop (3), China Girl (1), Classic Royale (4), Modern Classic (5), Gorgeous (2)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Piroutte (8), Do Re Mi (3), Worth Ur While (6), Blitzkrieg (7), Look of Life (2)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Raise a Dancer (3), Reptold (1), Gung Ho (10), Windsong (11), Time Will Reveal (8), War Bird (2)



Government Warning: Cigarette sm

uno hammers it past Letran's
y Cases. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Adamson grabs lead

Sweeps Lyceum in 3 sets; Lady Archers bounce back

By Romina S. Austria

ADAMSON UNIVERSITY CLAIMED THE solo lead while La Salle bounced back from an opening-day loss yesterday in the 2007 Shakey's V-League women's volleyball second conference at The Arena in San Juan.

Sticking to its first six and forcing the enemy to give up 29 points on errors, the Lady Falcons dumped the Lyceum Lady Pirates, 25-18 25-22, 25-13, for a 2-0 card.

The Lady Falcons got going Sunday with a 25-23, 25-21, 27-25 decision of the Far Eastern University Lady Tamaraws.

In the second game, the defending champion Lady Archers shook off a sluggish start to turn back the Letran Lady Knights, 25-18, 25-13, 25-12, and even their record at 1-1.

Adamson, which placed sixth in the first conference, fielded the same starting unit in all three sets of the 68-minute match. Only libero Lizlee Ann Gata and Michelle Segodine came in as replacements.

Guest player Neriza Bautista scattered 13 points, including 11 on kills, while team captain Jacqueline So added 10 for Adamson.

The Lady Pirates were nowhere near the form that gave them the third-place trophy last conference over the Lady Archers. Only Sherrilyn Carillo delivered in double digits with 12 points.

"We played superb defense and committed fewer errors," said Adamson coach Minerva Dulce Pante, whose wards gave away only 7 points on errors. "Lyceum is one of the strong teams in this tournament but if we can always play and defend well, we have a chance."

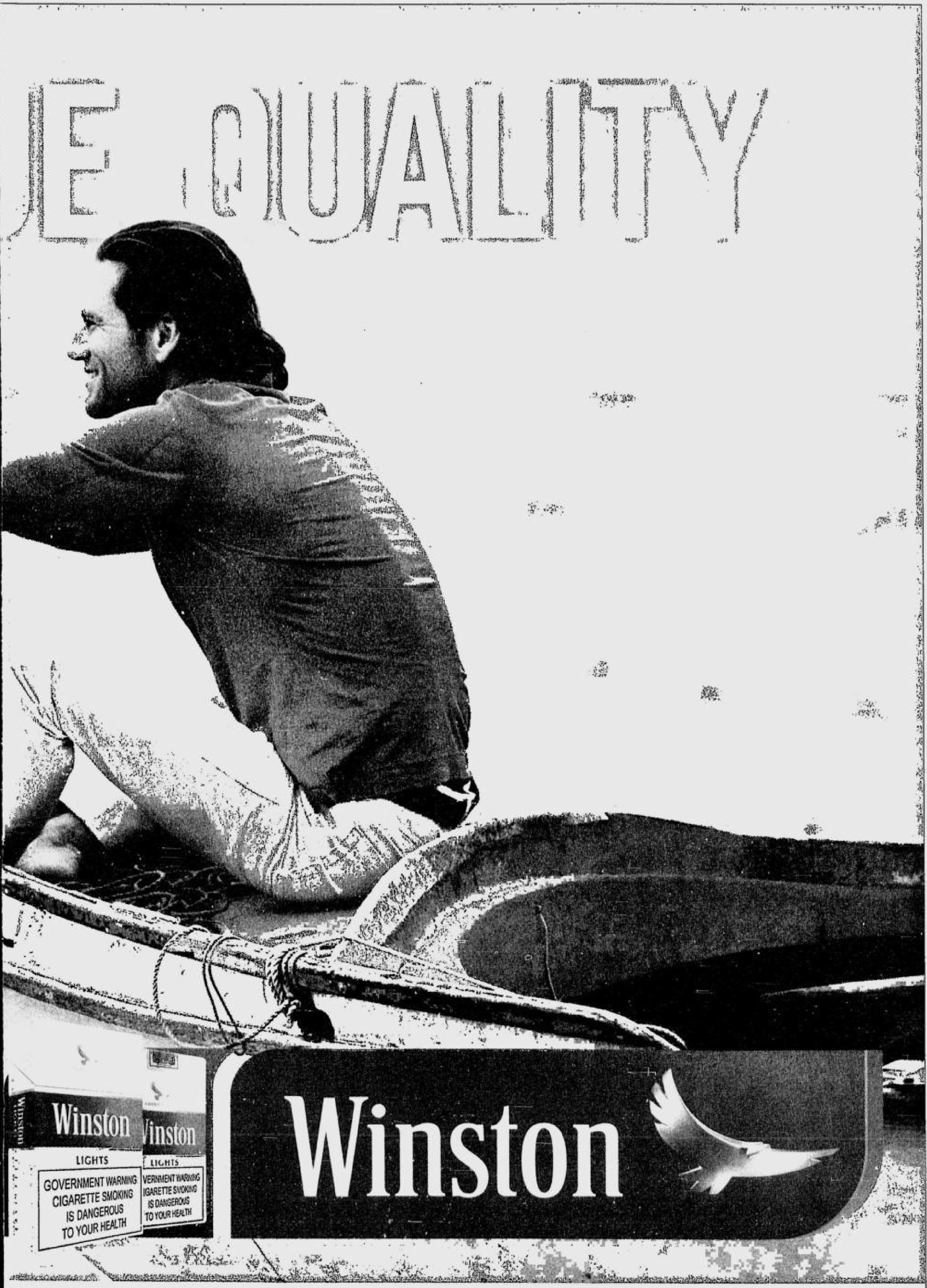
Trailing, 15-18, in the first set, La Salle leaned on Stephanie Mercado, Jacqueline Alarca, Reiea Saet and guest player Maureen Penetrante, who controlled the front line to blank Letran and score the set's last 10 points.

Letran lost its sting from there. After tying the count in the second set at 3-3, the Lady Knights got outscored, 9-1.

La Salle completely dominated the third set where it built a 13-2 spread.

Alarca made a team-high 12 points for La Salle, including three off blocks, while Penetrante backed her up with 10.

Letran got 13 points from Bangladesh Pantaleon, who had an injury scare late in the third set when she slipped while trying to return a Mercado tip-in.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noking is dangerous to your health.

Batawang's long, lonely quest for a title

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

WHETHER HE liked it or not, Bert Batawang has left behind some of his best punches—a good part of him—at the Wild Card gym after nearly four months of forced exile that saw him through the hardest, most trying moments in his 17-year struggle as a professional boxer.

It's hard to say whether Batawang, 35, would be able to return to the famous gym to pick up his weapons and finally get a crack at a world boxing crown.

Some of those great punches have pitifully gone to waste.

Batawang could also go down as the only Filipino who trained longest for a single world title bid.

* * *

In case you've forgotten, this is the same hardworking warrior who never wavered and trained diligently despite record successive postponements of his crack at a world title.

He was already at his peak.

In fact, he had already secured the required medical approval when he got word that his Oct. 4 title bout against WBC light flyweight champion Ulises Solis of Mexico had been put off.

Prior to that, the title bout versus Solis, originally set Sept. 16, had to be postponed after the Mexican champ claimed he had injured his shoulder.

* * *

It's odd but, before the twin postponements, there was also that first big fight for Batawang, as member of the RP team to the Boxing World Cup, that was scrapped at the last minute.

And, prior to that bungled World Cup appearance, Batawang said there was also a postponed world title eliminator against a certain Francisco Rosas.

So how many times has he been frustrated?

The poor warrior has stopped keeping a count, although it was not in his character to manifest deep dejection.

* * *

"*Makakauwi na rin* (I'm finally headed for home)," mumbled the dusky, marble-eyed warrior with the look and frame of a hunger striker.

This was on a Tuesday late last September.

Batawang spoke at the 3-C Wireless store along Vermont Avenue in Los Angeles, where he hung around with trainer Jeremiah Quijano in their free hours.

While Batawang left some of his finest moves at Wild Card, he whiled away his empty moments of separation from his family at the cozy store.

At least, Batawang said he got paid $3,500, representing half the purse of his scrapped bout at the World Cup.

He was also given $2,500 by Golden Boy Promotions as his share from television revenues.

* * *

Of course, he would have been a lot gladder, said trainer Quijano, if Batawang had also been given the classy Ice Link watch, which all his World Cup teammates received from the event sponsors.

Batawang nodded shyly and admitted that he regretted not getting the wrist watch which, he thought, he also deserved. He did not like to look and sound petty but the watch would've meant he was a part of the Philippine team, after all.

* * *

What's rather sickening, of course, was that he did not get a single cent for what could go down as the longest, toughest regimen ever for a Filipino world title seeker.

"As a mandatory challenger, he doesn't get paid for the postponements," Sammy Gello-ani, Batawang's manager, explained.

He refused to elaborate.

The first word after the postponement of the Oct. 4 title date was that the championship had been reset for November. Then came the announcement that Solis (25-1-2, with 19 KOs) would be available to fight in January.

Meanwhile, Batawang (50-6 with 34 KOs) has not dropped his guard and continues to train in earnest for the title crack that is no longer just around the corner.

Metro Manila POF leg under way

By June Navarro

THE SEARCH FOR FUTURE OLYMPIC TALENTS continues with the staging of the National Capital Region qualifying games of the Philippine Olympic Festival starting today at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Some 1,600 athletes from 15 towns and cities are taking part in the five-day meet with the winners clinching slots to next month's national finals.

Sports Commissioner Joey Mundo will be the keynote speaker during the 7 a.m. opening rites today with Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. and POF chair Robert Aventajado expected to grace the affair.

SPORTS

Here come the Rockies

Hot Colorado sweeps Arizona, reaches baseball World Series

DENVER—THE STREAKING COLORADO Rockies roared into their first World Series after holding off the Arizona Diamondbacks, 6-4, to sweep the National League Championship Series on Monday.

Matt Holliday belted a three-run homer to key a six-run fourth-inning outburst to send the expansion club into baseball's classic for the first time.

"This is pretty incredible," Holliday told reporters after being selected the NLCS most valuable player.

The win was the 21st in 22 games for the Rockies, who have won all seven of their postseason games including four successive victories over the Diamondbacks in the National League Championship Series.

It was the first time that a team swept its first seven postseason games since the 1976 Cincinnati Reds, known then as The Big Red Machine.

The Rockies will play either the Cleveland Indians or the Boston Red Sox in the World Series beginning Oct. 24.

The Indians beat the Red Sox, 4-2, on Monday to take a 2-1 lead in their American League Championship Series.

Holliday staked the Rockies to a 6-1 lead and they survived a three-run homer by Arizona's Chris Snyder to win their 10th straight game, including the regular season.

"It was fun, this has been a great ride," Rockies first baseman Todd Helton told reporters when asked about Colorado's late run. "We're not done yet." *Reuters*

The Colorado Rockies celebrate their entry into the World Series with the National League trophy. AP

'Parole possible for Distrito'

By Jasmine W. Payo

FOR THE PLAYERS WHO HAD THE unfortunate luck of running into him on the court, Abe King was always bad news.

Nowadays, though, he is the bearer of good tidings, especially when it came to news about the incarcerated Rudy Distrito, whom he fought a lot of memorable basketball wars against.

"The board of pardon in Nevada is already preparing the parole proceedings for Rudy," King told the PSA Forum yesterday. "*Kaya pinag-hahandaan na 'yung* release plan *niya* (That's why they are readying his release plan)."

King dropped by the PSA Forum sponsored by Shakey's and Pagcor to brief local journalists on the status of former PBA "bad boy" who is currently in jail for homicide. He also gave a more in-depth introduction about his PBA Legends Foundation, a group that aims to help ex-professionals.

Distrito is one of the first beneficiaries of the group, which played a series of exhibition matches to raise funds for the cager's legal defense.

In between serious talks, King also found time to verbally jab around with the people who once covered his checkered career.

"*Magiging mayabang ako dito* (I'll be a little boastful here)," the US-based King said. "*Pero kung inabot ko ang* basketball *ngayon na ganyan kalinis, palagay ko makakalamang ako ng maraming beses* (But if I were still playing today, I think I'd have a lot of edge)."

"*Tignan niyo nga mukha ko, mukhang boksingero na* (Look at my face, it's like that of a boxer's already)," the 50-year-old King, who played in the PBA from 1977 to 1995 for such teams as Toyota, Great Taste and Purefoods.

Pereiro now Tour champion

MADRID, SPAIN—OSCAR PEREIRO FINALLY got his hands on the winner's yellow jersey from the 2006 Tour de France on Monday.

"Finally, we have a winner and it's Oscar," Tour director Christian Prudhomme said. "Oscar, you have won the Tour out on the road."

The Spaniard moved up from second to first after the disqualification of Floyd Landis for doping.

"I have the feeling of arriving at the end of a thriller, after having spent 14 months thinking about it and not being able to concentrate as I should have on my job," Pereiro said. "It is essentially a kind of release."

The International Cycling Union formally declared Pereiro the winner on Sept. 21, one day after a U.S. arbitration panel voted 2-1 to remove the title from Landis for using synthetic testosterone during the Tour.

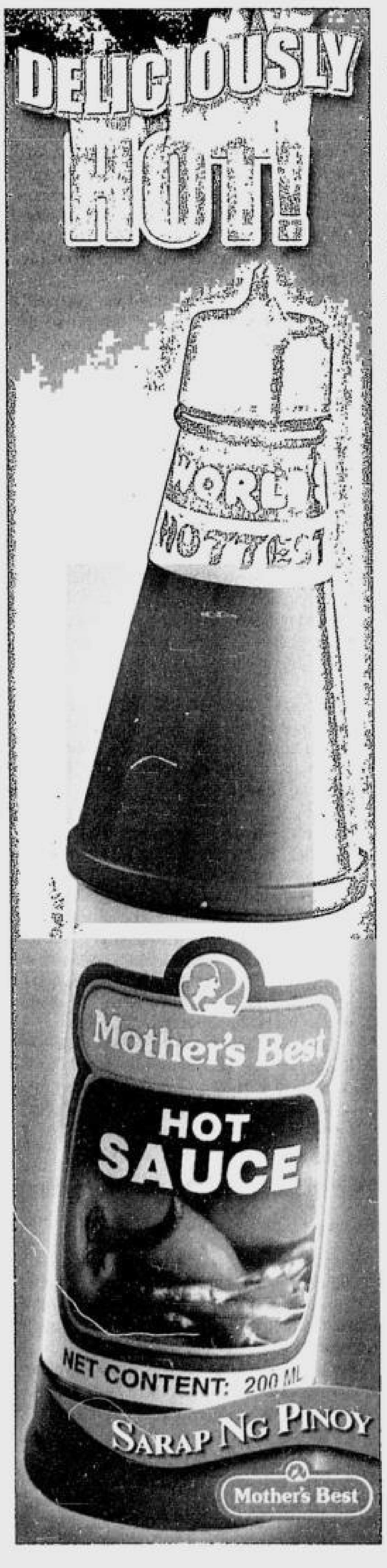
PEREIRO REUTERS

It's the first time in the 105-year history of the race that a winner has been stripped of the title.

"The moment I received the profit of my work, I had mixed feelings, something between satisfaction and regret for what we were deprived of," Pereiro said.

Pereiro stood on the top step of a podium with his winner's jersey, not along the Champs-Elysees as a normal champion would but in offices of Spain's Sport Ministry.

Landis has appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, which is expected to issue a final and binding ruling by mid-February. *AP*



Asean Tour resumes at Malarayat today

By Musong R. Castillo

LIPA CITY—SWIRLING WINDS, SOGGY fairways and lightning-fast greens are the elements to conquer starting today when a huge local group led by Artemio Murakami and a slew of foreigners battle it out in the Philippine leg of the Asean Tour at the Malarayat here.

Murakami banners the Philippine charge in the $30,000 (around P1.35 million) event to be played at the Mounts Lobo and Malipunyo nines.

"It's anybody's game here," Murakami told the INQUIRER yesterday with still four holes left in his final practice round over the perfectly manicured composite course, half of which was used during the 2005 RP Open won by Aussie Adam Le Vesconte.

"I don't think anybody has the edge," he added. "But of course, we (Filipinos) have a slight advantage because of our familiarity with the course. But you still have to swing your clubs to win."

Murakami is the logical pick to win the event after breaking through in the Asian Tour with a smashing come-from-behind victory in the Iskandar Johor Open in Malaysia two months ago.

He tees off in the 8:30 a.m. group together with one-time Asian Tour winner and countryman Angelo Que and Thailand's Assanai Saengsui.

Though he was forced to withdraw from the Korean Open because of food poisoning and then rested another week after that, Murakami feels that he has the game to contend this week.

Juvic Pagunsan and Gerald Rosales are also rated highly among the 56 Filipinos entered due to their previous strong stints at the sprawling complex that is about two hours south of Manila.

The 28-year-old Pagunsan was the low amateur in the 2005 RP Open, even contending for the championship until a spate of bogeys late in his final nine did him in.

Rosales finished second to Le Vesconte two years ago and is one of three former RP Open winners in the event along with Robert Pactolerin and Cassius Casas.

First place in this event, the third biggest in the country after the Open and The Country Club Invitational, is worth $4,895 (around P215,300). The runner-up gets $3,389 and third placer $1,910.

Confab seeks softball's return to Olympics

THE CAMPAIGN SEEKING THE reinstatement of softball to the list of sports in the 2016 Olympic Games is one of the top agendas when the Philippines hosts the 23rd International Softball Federation Congress on Oct. 24-27 at the Edsa Shangri-la hotel.

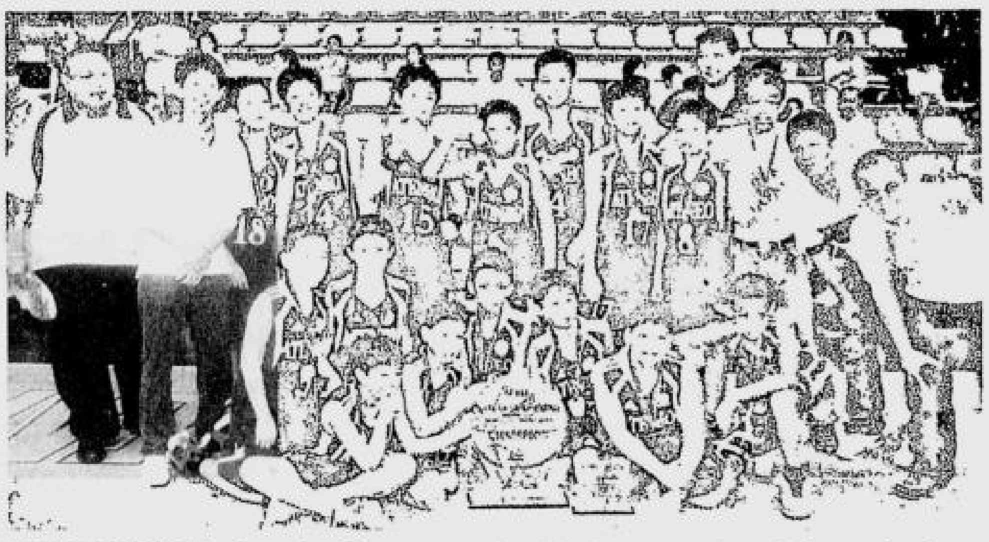
ISF president Don Porter and the other members of the ISF executive council earlier unveiled a 10-point blueprint designed to boost softball and surpass the criteria of the International Olympic Committee in assessing sports in the Olympic program.

This includes a plan to increase the number of national softball federations from 128 to 150 by 2009, promote softball among the youth and get 12.5 million people into the sport by next year, and help more girls and women play the sport in the Middle East.

Delegates from some 70 ISF member-countries are joining the congress.

"The decision by the IOC to exclude softball from the program for London (Olympics) in 2012 was a wake-up call for our sport," said Porter at the launch of the ISF campaign last June.

"We believe that this Congress which the Philippines is hosting for the very first time ... will play an important role in the ISF's developmental program and its campaign to get back to the Olympic Games," said Amateur Softball Association of the Philippines president Jean Henri Lhuillier.



FLYING HIGH: The victorious Ateneo squad and their mentors show their trophy after ruling the recent Milo-Small Basketeers of the Philippines (SBP) NCR tournament with an 84-53 whipping of La Salle. From left, standing, are Milo-Best founder Nic Jorge, assistant coach Dondi Peleo, Paolo Quiogue, Mio Puno, Mark Gamboa, Thirdy Ravena, Jay Javelosa, Miguel Nitorreda, Anton Asistio, tournament guest and former PBA MVP Allan Caidic, Fr. Joey Fermin, SJ, assistant coach Bong Mojas and head coach Marc Bautista. Seated, same order, are Sheik Carino, Archie Bocalbos, Jeo Consunji, Mathew Nieto, Juster Madamba, Enzo Joson, Michael Nieto and Aaron Black.

Balanced field turns PBL into wide open fight

By Jasmine W. Payo

BALANCED SQUADS CERTAINLY MAKE for great and exciting contests.

With key players leaving their teams to join the national team or the pro league, a tough, wide-open competition is expected when the PBL First Conference unfolds this Saturday at The Arena in San Juan.

"The best players are in the national team or just moved up to the PBA," said Toyota Balintawak coach Ariel Vanguardia at the PSA Forum yesterday at Shakey's United Nations. "The teams now are very balanced."

PEDRO

Toyota Balintawak will miss the services of seven players led by Fil-Am Joe Devance, the pro league's top rookie pick this season.

"That's a very big shoe to fill," said Vanguardia of Devance's departure.

But among Toyota's key recruits is guard Cholo Villanueva, who will be reunited with La Salle teammate JV Casio.

Chito Victolero, who will serve as assistant to San Mig Coffee coach Koy Banal, said: "We also have a new look. We have many new players, we only have five holdovers from the last conference."

San Mig Coffee (formerly San Miguel Magnolia), though, remains potent with the acquisition of Ateneo center Ford Arao and NCAA Most Valuable Player Kelvin dela Peña of Mapua.

Even three-time champion Harbour Centre, which loaned its stars to the all-amateur Philippine team, predicts a wide-open race.

"I think it will be tough for us," said Harbour liaison offer Albert Tirona. "It's a young cast for us this conference."

Meanwhile, the league elected Lamoiyan Corporation president Cecilio Pedro as its new chair during the board of governor's meeting yesterday at Shangri-la Hotel.

Harbour Centre owner Mikee Romero will serve as vice chair, while Ding Camua of newcomer Pharex will be treasurer this season.

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French-led group wins Calaca bid

$786.53-M offer edges out First Gen, AES

By Abigail L. Ho

CALACA HOLDCO INC., A consortium led by France's Suez-Tractebel, yesterday topped the bidding for the 600-megawatt Calaca coal-fired power plant in Batangas with a bid of $786.53 million.

The group edged out the Lopez family's First Gen Corp. and AES Corp., the company that won the bidding for the 600-MW Masinloc coal-fired power plant in July.

The Calaca plant was sold with 287 MW of supply contracts attached to it, 169 MW of which were with Manila Electric Co.

Bidding for the Calaca plant had failed twice over the past two years, due mainly to the lack of supply contracts attached to it.

With supply contracts covering more than half of the plant's dependable capacity, Calaca Holdco is assured of a ready market for the electricity

FRENCH-LED/ B2

IN THIS ISSUE

DBP eyeing P42.3B in ODAs for priority projects /B3
RP posts $95-M BOP deficit /B8

Exporters cut growth target

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL EXPORTERS ARE CUTTING THEIR target growth of 11 percent for 2007 to between 3 percent and 6 percent due to the continued decline of dollar against the peso.

Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., president of the Philippine Exporters Confederation, said the group was still confident that export earnings would grow this year but that the dismal performance in the past three months forced the target cut.

Ortiz-Luis was reacting to government reports that exports shrank 4.8 percent last August.

He said exports showed a 4.8-percent overall growth from January to July, but this was already below the revised forecasts of the BSP and the Semiconductors and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc. (Seipi).

"Top earners with imported inputs like electronics, semiconductors, garments and automotive parts, may still post some growth by yearend," Ortiz-Luis said.

"But exports made from local materials may decrease for the remainder of this year," he added. "They are suffering the worst from the appreciation of the peso."

The Philexport president said such prod-

EXPORTERS/ B4

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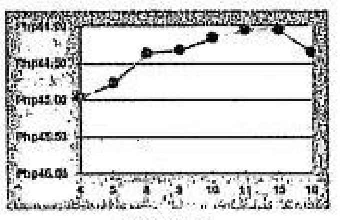


OCTOBER

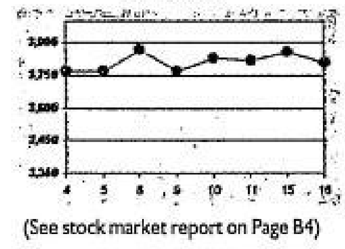
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 44.34 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 16, 2007

STOCK MARKET

OCTOBER



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares close 1.2% lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 1.2-PERCENT lower yesterday following a sharp downturn on Wall Street overnight where fresh worries have emerged over the state of the credit markets, dealers said.

They noted comments by US Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke who said late Monday that while conditions in the credit market have improved, a full recovery will take time.

He also said the deepening housing slump would probably be a "significant drag" on economic growth into next year.

The composite index fell 46.16 points to 3,815.22. Decliners outnumbered gainers 87 to 42, while 43 stocks were unchanged.

Volume totaled 5.6 billion shares worth nearly P5 billion.

"If the market yesterday was indecisive, today it was easily swayed by resurrected worries over US housing and credit problems," said Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities.

Vistan said the market's slide was a healthy correction after recent rallies that brought many stocks to record highs, including index leader PLDT.

The main index has pulled back since reaching a record high of 3,896.74 on Oct. 8, but analysts said it has not had any significant correction since then.

"Our concern is that when the correction occurs, investors may overreact on the downside," BPI Securities said in a broker note. *AFP*

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ALI to start work on new PSE building in '08

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

PROPERTY GIANT AYALA Land Inc. (ALI) will start construction of the new headquarters of the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) in 2008 at the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

The new building will merge the local bourse's two separate trading floors in Tektite, Pasig City, and Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

The new office building will cover 40,000 to 60,000 square meters in gross floor area consisting of more than 30 floors, similar to the size of Tower One, home of the Makati trading floor.

At the sidelines of Tuesday night's Trinoma launch, ALI chief finance officer Jaime Ysmael said the new office building would be located at the West Superblock of Fort Bonifacio Global City, near the Hyundai showroom.

Completion of the office building is targeted by 2010.

INQUIRER sources said the lot size of the new office building where the merged trading floor will be housed is around 4,000 square meters, nearly twice the size of a land donation by Metro Pacific Corp. to the PSE in Fort Bonifacio of 2,182 square meters.

The lot representing the MPC donation will be swapped by PSE with units at the new office building that ALI will build.

PSE will also need some P300 million in capital to acquire certain floors for its offices at the new building in addition to the land swap, sources said.

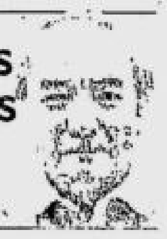
Aside from the merged trading floor of the PSE, the new office building can house traditional offices and business process outsourcing offices.

ALI signed in April a memorandum of agreement with the PSE and Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. (FBDC)—the partnership between the Ayala-Campos groups and the Bases Conversion Development Authority that spearheads the master-planning of the Bonifacio Global City—on the construction of the headquarter office building.

SSS & GSIS: Investing abroad

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General



LET US TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT the plans of the Social Security System (SSS) and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) to invest $1 billion each abroad.

Act 8282 says that SSS shall invest the Investment Reserve Fund (briefly, this is the contributions less operating expenses and benefit payments) to earn an annual income not less that the average rate of treasury bills or any acceptable market yield indicator.

The law lists a wide variety of allowable investments, including foreign mutual funds, subject to certain restrictions provided by law.

Also, SSS is allowed to invest in "foreign currency deposits or triple 'A' foreign currency-denominated debts, prime and non-speculative equities, and other Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas approved financial instruments or other assets issued in accordance with existing laws of the countries where such financial instruments are issued," subject to certain provisos.

Finally, the SSS "may appoint local, or, in the absence thereof, foreign fund managers to manage the Investment Reserve Fund, as it may deem appropriate."

The GSIS law is much simpler.

Act 8291 allows GSIS to invest "in foreign mutual funds and in foreign currency deposits or foreign currency-denominated debts, non-speculative equities and other financial instruments or other assets issued in accordance with existing laws of the countries where such financial instruments are issued: Provided, that these instruments or assets are listed in bourses of the respective countries where these instruments or assets are issued: and, Provided, further, that the issuing company has proven a track record of profitability over the last three years and payment of dividends at least once over the same period."

There are no limits as in SSS, and this scares me.

Investing abroad is perfectly legal, so long as the provisos set by law are strictly followed. Besides, since the law gives SSS and GSIS a wide variety of avenues for investments anyway, it is always desirable to diversify.

A major consideration is the return on investments. A foreign-based fund manager is not cheap. His commission is hefty and will take a large slice of earnings.

In choosing a fund manager, SSS and GSIS should seriously consider a locally based manager, such as a life insurance company, or the trust department of a local bank. These local managers may charge lower commissions and bring in higher net returns.

Also, isn't $1 billion each from SSS and GSIS too much? I would not mind the size of these investments, but will this result in higher death, disability and pension benefits for the members? Will the funds be more actuarially sound? SSS and GSIS should answer these questions before plunging into what looks to me as uncharted seas.

Finally, there are the inevitable political considerations. The labor sector thinks the money should be invested locally to create jobs.

It also would seem funny that the President goes around the world encouraging foreigners to invest in the Philippines, and she has been quite successful in her missions, while the two biggest pension funds in the country are investing abroad.

Perhaps, the best way is for SSS and GSIS to reduce their foreign investment plans.

French-led group ...

From page B1

that the plant will generate.

CHI was incorporated last June 13 to serve as a special purpose company through which Suez-Tractebel SA would bid for and hold the Calaca power plant. It is wholly owned by Suez-Tractebel through subsidiary Belgelectric Finance BV.

Suez-Tractebel is Belgium's top utility holding company and one of the world's top independent power producers, operating in more than 100 countries on five continents.

According to PSALM, CHI will only be declared the winning bidder when the accuracy, authenticity and completeness of all the submitted bid documents have been verified.

PSALM will then issue the notice of award to CHI.

In a telephone interview, Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. vice president for asset management and electricity trading Froilan Tampinco said yesterday's successful auction brought the privatization level of the National Power Corp.'s Luzon and Visayas capacities to 38.76 percent, or 1,680.5 MW of 4,335.7 MW.

This was only 12 percentage points shy of PSALM's 50-percent privatization target for this year.

"This is really a good year for us. It's a great year for the country," he said, adding that the price that PSALM fetched for the Calaca plant was way beyond its expectations.

Other plants lined up for privatization within the year are the 175-MW Ambuklao-Binga hydropower plant package in November and the 192.5-MW Palinpinon geothermal facility and 146.5-MW Panay diesel-fired power plant package in December.

PSALM is also preparing to bid out the 25-year National Transmission Corp. concession before the end of the year.

Apart from Calaca and Masinloc, PSALM has also sold eight Napocor hydropower facilities, including the 3.5-MW Talomo plant in Davao, the 1.6-MW Agusan facility in Bukidnon, the 1.8-MW Barit plant in Camarines Sur, the 0.4-MW Cawayan plant in Sorsogon, the 1.2-MW Loboc plant in Bohol, the 112-MW Pantabangan-Masiway package in Nueva Ecija, and the 360-MW Magat plant in Isabela.

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DBP eyeing P42.3B in ODAs for priority projects

By Doris C. Dumlao

STATE-OWNED DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines plans to tap P42.3 billion in fresh official development assistance (ODA) from foreign bilateral and multilateral donors to fund high-impact development projects given the growing economy's huge demand for infrastructure financing.

In a briefing yesterday, DBP president Reynaldo David said the bank had so far mobilized P59.95 billion for priority development projects nationwide—including infrastructure and logistics, small and medium enterprises, social services and environment.

The amount represents 86 percent of DBP's total loan portfolio . The remaining 14 percent went to industrial projects.

"We are on course to hitting our aim of allocating 90 percent of our total loan portfolio for development projects in support of the national government's goal of jumpstarting the economy," David said.

The country's gross domestic product, which sums up all the goods and services produced in a given period, grew at its fastest pace in 20 years in the first semester. The second quarter GDP growth was recorded at 7.5 percent following a 7.1-percent expansion in the first quarter.

The bank plans to obtain the fresh funding of P42.3 billion from ODA partners Japan Bank for International Cooperation, Asian Development Bank, Germany's KfW and the World Bank.

The bulk was expected to come from JBIC, consisting of about P16 billion for infrastructure and logistics, P10 billion for environment development and P10 billion for industry support.

The ADB and KfW are expected to sink in P2.25 billion each for sustainable healthcare projects while the World Bank is seen providing P1.8 billion for a rural power project.

To date, the bulk of DBP's P59.95-billion loan portfolio was devoted to the infrastructure sector. This sector benefited from the bank's flagship project, the Sustainable Logistics Development Program (SLDP), which aims to modernize the infrastructure and transportation sectors through projects in three critical areas: The road roll-on roll-off (RoRo) terminal system, the cold chains and national grains highway.

David said DBP had so far approved 45 projects for the SLDP amounting to P8.3 billion, with an additional 40 projects amounting to P6 billion in the pipeline.

DBP posted a net income of P2.95 billion in the first nine months of the year. It is expected to post a full-year profit of P4 billion.

Shoemart to buy out SMDC minority owners

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

SHOEMART INC., the investment firm of taipan Henry Sy, said it would buy all the shares held by minority stakeholders, equivalent to 35 percent, in affiliate residential developer SM Development Corp. (SMDC) for P5.1 billion.

Shoemart has filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission a tender offer application last week, said SM Investments Corp. (SMIC) executive vice president Jose Sio.

This will enable Shoemart to buy out the minority shareholders in SMDC.

The tender offer is in compliance with securities laws, which require a company acquiring at least 35 percent of a public company to make an offer to buy out the minority shareholders.

Shoemart's tender offer arises from a plan by Sy flagship firm SMIC to simplify its business structure.

Under the plan, SMIC will consolidate all its property assets under Shoemart. SMIC's core businesses today are mall development (under SM Prime), retail (department stores, supermarkets and hypermarkets), banking (Banco de Oro and China Bank) and tourism (SMDC, Highlands Prime, SM Bay City and Hamilo Coast).

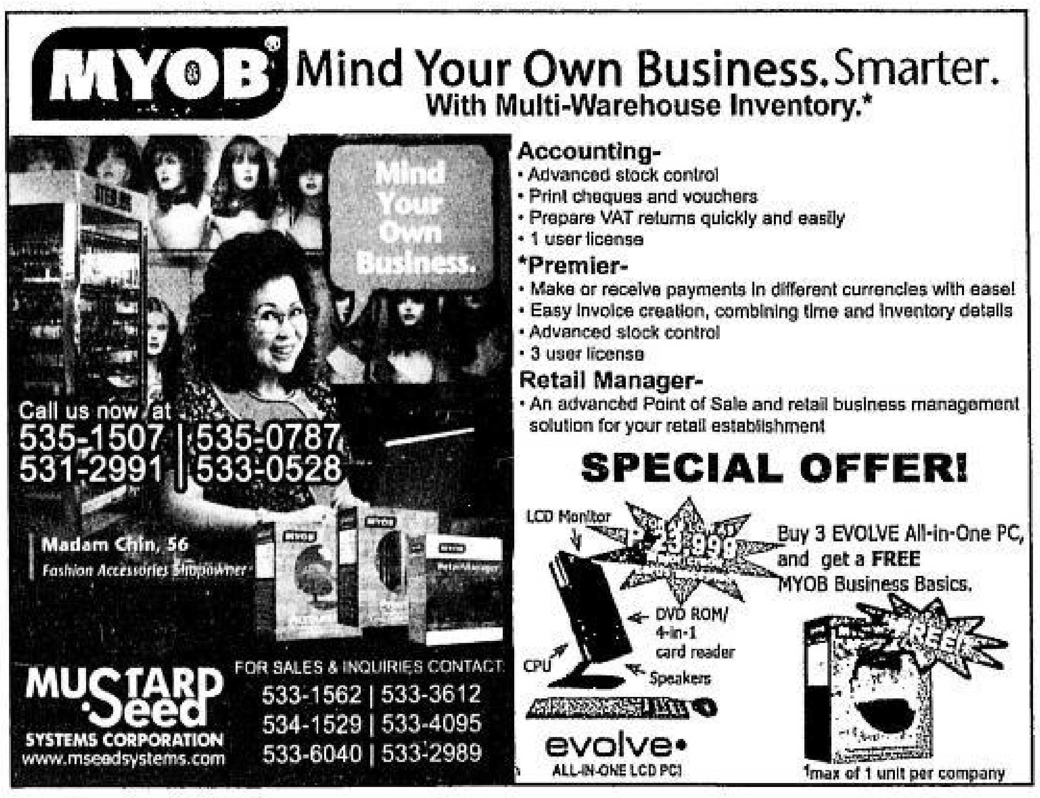
In an earlier agreement approved by their respective boards, SMIC will transfer to Shoemart its entire holdings in SMDC equivalent to 1.82 billion shares or 48.64 percent. Shoemart presently owns 15.6 percent in SMDC.

In exchange for these shares, SMIC will receive new shares from Shoemart.

The transactions will result in Shoemart owning 64.7 percent of SMDC, while SMIC will increase its stake in Shoemart to 67 percent from 65 percent.

SMIC officials said Shoemart is offering to buy SMDC shares at P3.95 a share to be paid in cash, much lower than the company's market price yesterday of P4.30 apiece.

Out of the remaining 35 percent minority group in SMDC, about 15 percent belongs to the Sy family and 20 percent is held by the public.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JG Summit regains 17.7% stake in petrochem unit

Firm consolidates ownership of ₱1-B enterprise

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

JG SUMMIT HOLDINGS INC. HAS acquired the 17.7-percent stake of Japanese conglomerate Marubeni Corp. in JG Summit Petrochemical Corp.

This will increase JG Summit's stake in its petrochemical unit to 100 percent, the company said in a disclosure to the stock exchange.

Sources said the Gokongwei holdings firm has consolidated its ownership in JG Summit Petrochemical "to have more flexibility in pursuing different strategic alternatives for its petrochemical business."

Sources could not give details as to what these alternatives are, citing confidentiality agreements. The same clause was also cited when the sources refused to disclose JG Summit's acquisition cost.

JG Summit Petrochemical's revenue decreased by 53 percent during the quarter ending in June to P1.37 billion, from last year's P2.91 billion as a result of a 56-percent drop in sales volume.

JG Summit Petrochemical's plants produce multiple grades of polyethylene and polypropylene resins, which are used to fabricate large drums, bleach bottles, shopping bags, crates, nets, pails, films, adhesive tapes, cigarette and candy wrappers, cosmetics, pharmaceutical and food packaging materials, heavy-duty sacks, lamination films, industrial cosmetics, pharmaceutical and food packaging materials.

The company is a core subsidiary of JG Summit, one of the largest business conglomerates listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange with interests in property development, hotel management, textiles, banking and financial services, telecommunications, air transportation and power generation.

Last year, JG Summit said it would raise as much as $475 million in loans from multilateral firms to fund a proposed naptha cracker plant in Batangas City to produce as much as 350,000 tons of raw materials for plastic.

JG Summit president Lance Gokongwei had said the total project cost for the petrochemical project is estimated at roughly $600 million.

A naphtha cracker would boost the revenue of the group's petrochemical business to about $450 million a year from the present $150 million, Gokongwei earlier said.

The project would feed on the petrochemical demand of the region, particularly that of China.

Deal or noodle

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

ARE THOSE MULTIMILLION-PESO machines at the piers working at all? Those cargo-scanning X-ray machines hailed as "The" solution against smuggling?

For answers, my contacts in business directed me to the Senate hearing on the 2008 budget of the Bureau of Customs.

It seems that the BOC has some 15 of those X-ray machines in service since last year, delivered straight from—oh no, not again—somewhere in China.

And, according to Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales, the BOC is adding another 15 of them soon.

The Senate finance committee wanted to know all about the x-ray machines because, just for their maintenance, the BOC was asking a budget of P104 million.

Only for one year, mind you!

Nobody could say if the spare parts of the machines are actually made of diamonds and gold, but the senators wondered about the huge maintenance cost.

And so Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who was once a customs commissioner himself, asked Morales just how beneficial the machines were to the country.

JPE wanted to know how often noodles were smuggled in from China, which the BOC caught and stopped, thanks to those expensive contraptions involving a multimillion-peso deal.

Guess what? Nobody in the BOC knew!

Let me see if I get this right: While we spent hundreds of millions of pesos for the machines, plus hundreds of millions for their maintenance, we still don't know if the system was working or not. Is that it?

Good heavens, we do not even know how much they really cost!

* * *

WORD in Binondo has it that the BOC purchase of the X-ray machines went through a broker known as "Mister F."

The lucky guy is said to be one of the big shots of the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc., or FFCCCII.

Our contacts said that he also brokered the ZTE contract, since he has been claiming to have close contacts with important people in China.

* * *

NOW JPE has another problem with the BOC that also involves private sector business organizations like the FFCCCII.

This one involves the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which handles the BOC's so-called automated system for customs data, or Asycuda.

It is actually an encoding system for import shipments with PCCI, as operator, assigning actual inspection of the cargo, or just inspection of the documents, before proceeding to the cash division for outright settlement of duties and taxes.

JPE thinks it is an anomalous arrangement, since members of the PCCI are themselves the importers.

Thus, BOC is supposed to police them. JPE notes that, because of the arrangement with PCCI, the BOC is being guarded by the people that the BOC is supposed to police.

What do you know, Mariano, BOC boss Morales already wrote the PCCI two years ago that the BOC was going to terminate the arrangement since its legality was under question.

Of course nothing happened. The PCCI is still handling the Asycuda.

Every year, the PCCI only collects at least P32 million in fees from the encoding deal with the BOC.

But here is my beef: Who supervises the encoding done by the PCCI?

Nobody can even do "lifestyle" checks on the PCCI bosses and their employees, because they are not, technically, government employees.

* * *

ALL RIGHT, so the world's biggest, quietest, greenest aircraft called Airbus A-380 can actually land at both the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, or Naia, in Manila, and at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport, or DMIA, in Clark.

That's an aircraft as tall as an 8-story building and as wide as a football field, and can carry as many as 520 or so passengers. The thing is, in a way, revolutionary!

To witness the event, I actually drove last Friday all the way to Angeles City, upon invitation of the Clark International Airport Corp., or CIAC, operator of the DMIA.

As everybody knows, the A-380 was on a test flight, having gone from Melbourne in Australia before coming to the Philippines, and then onward to Dubai.

Now, why on earth would the Airbus people want to land the world's most expensive airplane here in the Philippines, and even at the DMIA, at that?

Airbus executives who attended the press briefing at DMIA were the man in charge of sales for Asia-Pacific, and the head of marketing from the main office in France.

Bet on it that Airbus was also making a sales pitch, if not to the local airlines, at least to the traveling public.

In other words, this country is really a huge market for air travel.

Victor Jose Luciano, CEO and president of CIAC, noted that there are more than 10 million Filipinos overseas, both as immigrants or OFWs. Big market!

* * *

AS AN international airport, the DMIA has barely started the expansion of its terminal, which may be a plus for Airbus.

You see, if the Airbus A-380 lives up to its promise (okay, maybe marketing line) as the thing of the future, we may need to redesign our airports for the giant A-380.

DMIA, in other words, can design its new terminals in a way that can jive with the needs of the new generation of aircraft such as the A-380.

As I said, the airplane can accommodate more than 500 passengers. How long do you think it will take to disembark such a huge number of passengers, using one door of the airplane, going into one tube of the airport terminal? Let me guess, like forever?

The Airbus people of course talked about the "turnaround time" for their customers, which are the airline companies, saying that even with 500 passengers, the aircraft needs the same period of time to stay at one particular airport.

Sure, but I am really talking about the convenience of passengers. How long a wait do you need to get off the airplane if you are the 520th passenger to disembark?

I am not even talking about the luggage. You don't want me to get started on that.

Ours may be good enough airports for the aircraft, but I am not sure if it is the right aircraft for our kind of airports.

Exporters cut . . .

From page B1

ucts included food, woodcraft and furniture, holiday decor and handicraft.

He said these businesses account for a big part of the labor force which is dependent on exports, numbering some 3 million based on industry estimates.

Ortiz-Luis said that while the Bangko Sentral had scaled down export growth this year from 11 percent to 7 percent due to the peso's rise, Seipi has trimmed down its whole year forecast to a range of 6-8 percent.

Also, Ortiz-Luis attributed the slowdown to a decrease in demand from American consumers for imported goods.

"We are hoping for the ratification of the Japan-Philippine Economic Cooperation Agreement to stop the decline in exports and to drive growth next year," he said.

Ortiz-Luis said the export sector would slump further if the Senate rejected the Jpepa, which is expected to open up the Japanese market to agricultural products and furniture—two consistent export earners.

CURRENCIES

October 16, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.703977	1.000000	44.0610
Japan	Yen	0.005996	0.008518	0.3753
United Kingdom	Pound	1.438508	2.043400	90.0342
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.090807	0.128991	5.6835
Switzerland	Franc	0.596187	0.846883	37.3145
Canada	Dollar	0.720698	1.023751	45.1075
Singapore	Dollar	0.480334	0.682314	30.0634
Australia	Dollar	0.634100	0.900739	39.6875
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.868801	2.654632	116.9657
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.188380	0.267594	11.7905
Brunei	Dollar	0.478701	0.679995	29.9613
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000077	0.000110	0.0048
Thailand	Baht	0.022373	0.031781	1.4003
UAE	Dirham	0.191725	0.272346	11.9998
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.420500	62.5887
Korea	Won	0.000768	0.001091	0.0481
China	Yuan**	0.093509	0.132830	5.8526
Denmark	Kroner	0.134241	0.190690	8.4020
India	Rupee	0.017922	0.025458	1.1217
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.209050	0.296956	13.0842
New Zealand	Dollar	0.538209	0.764526	33.6858
Sweden	Kroner	0.109630	0.155729	6.8616
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021608	0.030694	1.3524

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Oct. 15, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of Oct. 15, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 16, 2007)

52-WKS HIGH	52-WKS LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.5	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	9.4	9.4	9.2	9.2	35,000
73	39.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	65.5	66	65	65.5	2,233,800
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	70.5	71.5	70	71	1,165,900
748	520	China Banking Corp.	725	725	710	710	4,170
40	16.52	Chinatrust Comm'l Banking Corp.	40	40	38	38	8,500
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.46	1,050,000
75.5	44	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company	67	67	66.5	67	3,756,300
65.5	34	Philippine National Bank	55.5	55.5	54	54	150,900
68	41	Philippine Savings Bank	62.5	62.5	62.5	62.5	200
39.57	15	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	29	29.5	28.5	29.5	4,616,400
90	54	Security Bank Corp.	78.5	79	78.5	79	746,500
66	43.52	Union Bank of the Philippines	53	53	52.5	52.5	19,300
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.78	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	4.85	5	4.5	4.9	68,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	2	2.04	1.98	2.04	8,429,000
16.25	4.2	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	13.5	13.5	13	13	377,000
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.18	1.06	1.06	6,427,000
5	2.95	Nat'l Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.65	3.75	3.65	3.75	1,907,000
3.1	1.08	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.94	1.96	61,000
1,115.00	232	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	1,115.00	1,115.00	1,095.00	1,110.00	29,820
2,355.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,330.00	2,330.00	2,330.00	2,330.00	100
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.62	1.62	523,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.6	3,866,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	68	68	68	68	603,200
92	50	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	87	88.5	87	88.5	345,200
17.5	8.8	Manila Water Company Inc.	17	17.5	16.75	17.25	3,345,500
105.45	23.18	Manila Electric Company	86.5	86.5	84.5	86	430,700
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7.2	7.5	7.2	7.3	21,663,000
6.6	3.9	Petron Corp.	6.4	6.6	6.4	6.5	5,409,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	8.5	8.7	8.3	8.6	1,551,000
1.9	0.99	Trans-Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.28	1.3	462,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.2	239,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.96	1.98	1.9	1.92	1,902,000
6.9	2.24	Central Azucarera De Tarlac	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	10,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26	26	26	26	400
61	38.5	Jollibee Foods Corp.	55	55	53.5	53.5	756,100
26	20	Liberty Flour Mills Inc.	26	26	26	26	132,100
0.98	0.5	RFM Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.78	0.78	40,000
3.85	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	1,046,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. A	61	61	60.5	61	66,800
88	59.5	San Miguel Corp. B	62.5	62.5	62	62	403,800
0.66	0.31	Swift Foods Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	50,000
6.3	2	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.3	6	6.2	328,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	15.75	15.75	15.5	15.75	1,590,900
0.55	0.26	Vitarich Corp.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	530,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	2.31	EEI Corp.	5.1	5.4	5	5.4	1,288,000
21.5	6	Federal Res. Investment Group Inc.	11.25	11.75	11.25	11.75	312,000
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	2,000
2	0.35	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.28	1.3	1.22	1.22	14,982,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.65	4.8	4.65	4.75	2,096,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.145	Picop Resources Inc.	0.44	0.45	0.43	0.43	11,420,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	2.38	A. Soriano Corp.	3.25	3.3	3.25	3.25	82,000
0.17	0.027	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.125	0.12	0.125	75,400,000
1.28	0.23	APC Group Inc.	0.85	0.86	0.83	0.83	14,560,000
3.65	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. A	3.25	3.25	3.1	3.2	870,000
3.7	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. B	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	50,000
0.018	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	13,400,000
9.7	5.6	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.3	874,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	88,400,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	6,216,000
1.38	0.54	Alsons Cons. Resources Inc.	0.87	0.88	0.87	0.87	810,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.32	2.34	2.32	2.32	1,649,000
8	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	19,000
615	397.92	Ayala Corp.	555	570	545	560	439,860
15.25	7.22	Bacnotan Cons. Industries Inc.	14	14	14	14	2,000
5.8	1.38	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.7	4.85	4.6	4.8	7,653,000
10.25	4.2	DMCI Holdings Inc.	10	10	9.9	9.9	3,457,400
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	4.8	4.9	4.7	4.75	476,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.9	427,000
3.55	1.36	House of Investments Inc.	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	80,000
14.5	7	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	100,000
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	2.12	2.12	1.98	1.98	175,000
0.8	0.22	MEDCO Holdings Inc.	0.59	0.6	0.59	0.6	20,000
0.95	0.195	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.63	0.63	140,000
11.5	1.38	Minerales Industrias Corp.	8.2	8.8	8.2	8.4	16,090,000
0.28	0.01	Pacifica Inc. A	0.2	0.21	0.195	0.195	123,370,000
1.54	0.72	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	120,000
0.75	0.18	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	130,000
2.1	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	11,000
452.5	246.96	SM Investments Corp.	402.5	407.5	402.5	402.5	293,370
2.1	1.08	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	4,000
0.73	0.13	Sinophil Corp.	0.48	0.49	0.46	0.46	14,410,000
1.6	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.44	1.46	1.44	1.46	80,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	19.25	19.25	19.25	19.25	17,400
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.39	0.39	6,800,000
1.1	0.26	Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.67	0.7	0.67	0.7	270,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	1	A Brown Company Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.42	465,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc.	8	8	7.7	7.9	137,000
1.06	0.32	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.7	0.72	930,000
19.25	11.46	Ayala Land Inc.	17.25	17.25	17	17.25	6,933,200
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.4	1.42	1.4	1.4	2,678,000
4.7	2.8	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.15	4.15	4.15	4.15	26,000
2.1	1.7	Cebu Property Venture & Dev't Corp.B	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	42,000
2.7	1.17	Cityland Development Corp.	1.9	2	1.9	2	28,000
0.86	0.35	Crown Equities Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	580,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.48	9,810,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.83	0.83	0.81	0.81	11,390,000
0.47	0.05	Ever Gotesco Res. and Hold'gs Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	6,350,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.1	1.14	10,323,000
2.44	1.26	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.78	1.8	53,216,000
0.49	0.11	Gotesco Land Inc. A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	390,000
1.12	0.28	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.68	0.69	0.67	0.69	2,990,000
4.4	1.85	Megaworld Corp.	4.1	4.15	4.05	4.1	12,876,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	5.3	5.8	5.3	5.3	2,092,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	390,000
0.87	0.32	Phil. Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.58	0.6	0.58	0.58	1,470,000
9.2	1.28	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	5	5	4.9	4.95	13,000
23	12.75	Robinson Land Corp.	20.75	20.75	20.5	20.5	6,502,400
5.9	1.52	SM Development Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.25	4.3	2,784,000
13.5	6.64	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.75	12.5	11.75	12	16,216,800
3.25	1.18	Shang Properties Inc.	2.55	2.55	2.5	2.5	217,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.69	0.7	640,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.29	.0.3	0.29	0.3	1,950,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	6	6	5.9	6	1,375,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	18.25	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31.5	31.5	30	30	262,000
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc.	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.7	582,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	1.54	1.56	1.54	1.54	1,216,000
1,740.00	1,085.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,720.00	1,725.00	1,720.00	1,720.00	40,620
3,285.00	2,155.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	3,040.00	3,090.00	3,025.00	3,050.00	176,610
8.1	4.7	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	8	8	7.8	8	2,992,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.225	3,360,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	8.9	9.3	8.9	9.3	119,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	9.8	9.8	9.6	9.7	6,192,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	72,500,000
2.9	1.48	Ionics Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	120,000
0.32	0.044	Island Info and Technology Inc.	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.21	11,900,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.44	1.46	1.44	1.44	475,000
0.0725	0.03	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.0575	0.0575	0.055	0.0575	153,800,000
5.8	1.34	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l Inc.	3.55	3.55	3.35	3.35	8,055,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.48	1.48	46,000
42.5	18.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	41	41	40.5	40.5	1,503,900
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	2	2	2	2	29,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.2	349,000
0.98	0.31	Premiere Entertainment Prod'n Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.7	0.71	890,000
1.2	0.44	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.8	0.81	0.8	0.8	1,280,000
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	8	8	8	8	41,000
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.05	3.05	85,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	1.96	Macroasia Corp.	5.1	5.4	5	5.2	1,242,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	13	13.5	12.75	13.5	33,897,300
30	10.5	Paxys Inc.	12	12	11.75	11.75	3,511,800
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	179,700,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Company Inc. A	5.8	6	5.7	5.7	2,699,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Company Inc. B	6	6	5.9	5.9	750,000
21.25	7.8	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	15.5	15.75	15.25	15.25	1,155,800
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. A	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.5	69,500
10.5	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	9.2	9.5	8.8	8.8	1,101,000
3.1	0.56	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc.	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.7	82,752,000
0.38	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. A	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.37	129,520,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. B	0.41	0.42	0.4	0.41	39,230,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. A	0.029	0.03	0.029	0.029	368,700,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. B	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.033	384,200,000
30	1.8	NiHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	23.5	27	23.5	26	10,190,600
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.014	0.016	0.014	0.015	2,056,400,000
9.4	3.5	Philex Mining Corp.	9.3	9.4	9	9.1	20,307,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	40.5	40.5	39	39	42,800
1.36	0.42	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1.04	1.08	1.04	1.04	5,899,000
1.8	0.59	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.32	1.32	4,502,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.37	10,650,000
0.029	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. A	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	349,600,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. B	0.028	0.028	0.027	0.027	75,200,000
11.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	9.9	10.25	9.9	10.25	88,000
0.032	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.029	0.029	0.028	0.028	299,800,000

	AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	983.35	DOWN	6.41	31,609,190	757,229,780.00
Industrial	4,836.26	DOWN	16.61	74,870,700	546,838,110.00
Holding Firms	2,127.98	DOWN	36.49	376,878,630	689,129,410.00
Property	1,746.10	DOWN	36.50	152,814,400	669,619,420.00
Service	1,850.83	DOWN	25.75	304,685,230	1,314,384,625.00
Mining & Oil	8,143.84	DOWN	64.42	4,022,556,700	877,865,330.00
All Shares Index	2,394.33	DOWN	23.96		
PSEI	3,815.22	DOWN	46.16		
		GRAND TOTALS		4,963,414,850	4,855,066,675.00

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SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

10-yr T-bond yield down to 7.113%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE YIELD ON THE GOVERNMENT'S 10-year treasury bonds dropped by 63.7 basis points to 7.113 percent yesterday as banks showed strong appetite for these low-risk securities.

The 10-year bonds fetched 7.75 percent in the previous auction on Aug. 21.

Bids for the long-term debt instruments yesterday reached P9.908 billion, as against the government's offering of only P7 billion.

Of the bids, the Bureau of the Treasury's auction committee accepted only P7 billion to meet its programmed borrowings.

Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan, who also serves as national treasurer, said the latest interest rate for the 10-year bonds was aligned with secondary market rates.

"It is also very much within the range recorded in the surveys of GSEDs (government securities eligible dealers)," Tan told reporters in a briefing after the auction.

Tan said nothing significant was worrying the market right now, as proven by the appetite for government securities and the relatively low interest rates.

The Department of Finance is expected to announce today the national government's budget performance for September. Tan said the market does not expect any surprise nor disappointment in today's announcement.

The government has set a budget deficit ceiling of P17.05 billion for September, although recent estimates showed the gap might only be P11.84 billion.

The deficit program for September is consistent with the aim of keeping the budget gap for the whole year at only P63 billion. Last year's budget gap was P64.8 billion. The government is targeting balanced budget next year, which would be the first time since the Asian financial crisis in late 1990s.

The government plans to meet this goal by raising revenue collections by the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs through tighter tax audit and anti-smuggling efforts.

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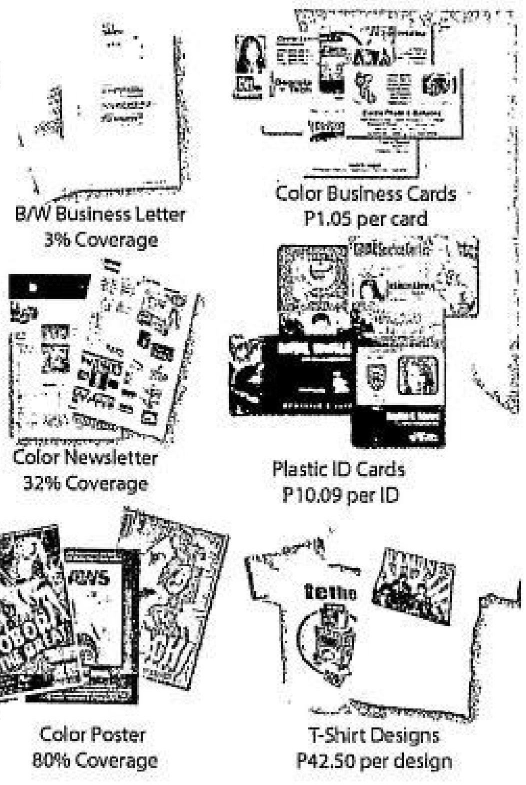

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TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS OF SM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:

Please be advised that Shoemart, Incorporated (the "Bidder") has filed a Tender Offer Report in SEC Form 19-1 with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") and the Philippines Stock Exchange (the "PSE") pursuant to Section 19 of the Securities Regulation Code in connection with its intention to acquire all of the **3,722,352,913** outstanding common shares (the "Shares") of SM Development Corporation ("SMDC").

The Bidder has commenced a negotiated acquisition of **One Billion Eight Hundred Twenty Three Million Eight Hundred Forty One Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Five (1,823,841,965)** Shares (equivalent to **49.0 %**) owned by **SM Investments Corporation** which shall be acquired at the same price per share of Three Pesos and Ninety Five Centavos (₱3.95) per share. The Bidder presently owns **15.7 %** of the Shares. Consequently, the subject of this Tender Offer is **1,312,296,345** Shares representing **35.3 %** of the Shares.

The offer price for the acquisition of the Shares is **Three Pesos and Ninety Five Centavos (₱3.95)** per share or a total consideration of **₱ 5,183,570,563** and will be payable on Settlement Date.

The Bidder shall acquire any Shares that may be tendered by any stockholder of SMDC in response to the Tender Offer. The Tender Offer shall commence on October 16, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. and shall end on November 16, 2007 at 12:00 noon (the "Tender Offer Period"). The Tender Offer Period may be extended by the Bidder subject to prior approval of the Commission. The Shares to be tendered are intended to be crossed at the PSE on November 19, 2007 (the "Cross Date"). Settlement Date shall be on the same date.

Stockholders who wish to offer all or a portion of their Shares for sale to the Bidder may do so by securing an Application to Tender Shares form (the "Application Form") from and submitting a duly accomplished Application Form together with the documentary requirements to the Transaction Brokers, **BDO Securities Corporation for local investors and Macquarie Securities, Inc**, for international investors.

The Transaction Brokers reserve the right to require the tendering stockholder to present additional documents for purposes of determining the validity, eligibility and acceptability of the Shares being tendered by the stockholder pursuant to the Offer.

The Shares being tendered for sale to the Bidder **must be received by the Transaction Broker in scripless form not later than 12:00 noon of November 16, 2007.** Shares received thereafter or without the required documents shall be rejected by the Bidder.

The Shares tendered may be withdrawn by the stockholder of record at any time during the tender offer period by submitting a written request for the tendered Shares to the Transaction Broker and surrendering the original Securities In-Receipt issued by the Transaction Broker. The last day to withdraw tendered Shares shall be on Friday, November 16, 2007 at 12 noon.

The Shares shall be deemed accepted by the Bidder for payment on November 16, 2007 at 12:00 noon (the "Closing Date") subject to the condition that the Bidder shall have obtained all corporate, contractual and regulatory approvals, consents and authorizations for the purchase by the Bidder of the Shares

Stockholders are advised to read the Application Form, the Terms of the Tender Offer, and the SEC Form 19-1 filed by the Bidder with the Commission. For queries, please call the Transaction Broker at contact details set forth below. Copies of the Application Form and the SEC Form 19-1 may be obtained by the stockholders of the SMDC, free of charge, from the following:

- For local investors:
  BDO Securities Corporation
  11th Floor The JMT Corporate Condominium
  No 27 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
  Attention: Janet Amora
  Tel. No.: 667-1572
  Attention: Jasper Jimenez
  Tel. No.: 687-3628
- For international investors:
  Macquarie Securities (Philippines) Inc.
  7TH Floor Tower One and Exchange Plaza
  Ayala Trangle, Ayala Avenue
  Makati City, 1226 Philippines
  New Address on 22 Oct 2007:
  22nd Floor 6750 Ayala Avenue
  Makati City, 1226 Philippines
  Attention: Pamela Ang
  Tel. No.: (632) 857-0838
  (632) 857-0886
  Ruby M. Mallari
  Tel. No.: (632) 857-0834
  Email: IBGMSSTLMMnla@macquarie.com
  Fax No.: (632) 891-9779

Corporations today are energizing their business by bringing together voice, data, and video into a single integrated network. A study shows that as a result, some of these corporations have reduced their annual operating costs by more than 20 percent, and they have increased customer satisfaction by as much as 25 percent.

Most of them rely on solutions from Cisco Systems – one of the world's leading networking companies.

Whether you are a small, medium, or a large corporation – ***Cisco Systems has the right mix of solutions that will fit your budget and boost your business performance.*** It's more than just switches and routers. It's a whole range of secure wired and wireless networking solutions.

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No matter what size your business is today, ***Cisco Systems allows you to build networks that will supercharge your business.*** Call us today and get started on a path of unprecedented business growth. You just might be surprised to discover how little investment it takes to bring your business to the next level.

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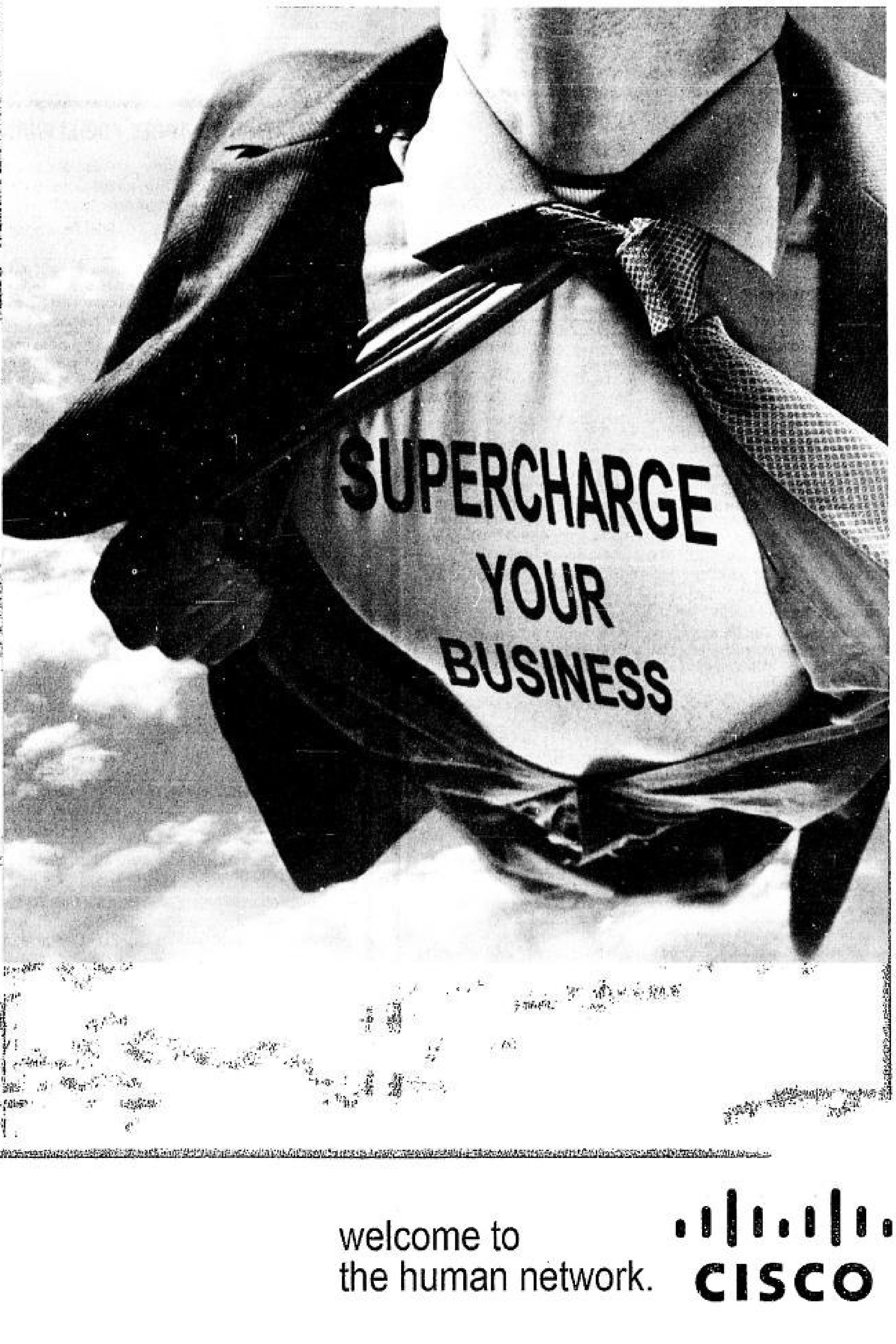
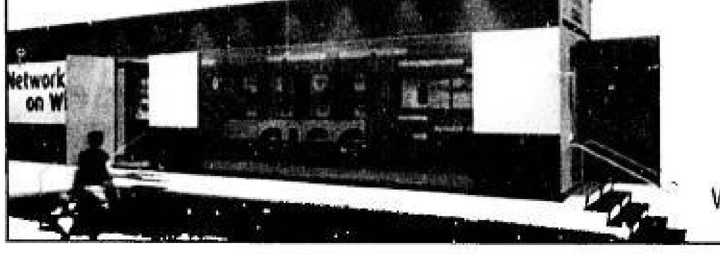
Between now and December 31, 2007 the first 150 customers to buy any Cisco product or solution can choose to avail any one of the following:

- **FREE 1 Linksys Wireless G Broadband Router (WRT54G)**
  Linksys, a division of Cisco Systems, Inc., is the recognized global leader in VoIP, Wireless and Ethernet networking. You can rely on Linksys to boost your operations through their easy-to-use and economical networking products and solutions which are backed-up with award-winning technical support.
- **FREE Training for 1 Module of the Cisco Certified Networking Associate (CCNA) Curriculum**
  The CCNA curriculum includes basic mitigation of security threats, introduction to wireless networking concepts and terminology, and performance-based skills. Through CCNA training and certification your technical team can enhance and validate their ability to install, configure, operate, and troubleshoot medium-size routed and switched networks.
- **FREE 2-week trial of IronPort**
  IronPort Systems is an independent business unit of Cisco Systems operating as part of Cisco's Security Technology Group. You can take advantage of their industry-leading, revolutionary anti-spam, anti-virus and anti-spyware appliance that protects the world's most important network infrastructures.

Only companies that utilize less than 200 PCs can avail of this promo.



welcome to
the human network. CISCO



Watch out for the coming of the Cisco Express **Network on Wheels!**

Philippine Economic Zone Authority

Bataan Ecomonic Zone

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY – BATAAN ECONOMIC ZONE (PEZA-BEZ), through its Corporate Budget for the CY 2007 intends to apply the sum of **Php 13,466,287.12** being the **Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)** to payments under the contract for the **Security Services for the Bataan Economic Zone (BEZ)** located at BEZ, Mariveles, Bataan. Bids received in excess of the Approved Budget for the contract (ABC) shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.
2. The PEZA-BEZ now invites sealed Bids from Eligible Bidders for the above mentioned contract as described below:

   Brief Description: Supply of Personnel, Equipment, Implements, Supplies and Supervision
   Contract Duration: One (1) calendar year
   Delivery Period: Within 15 days after Notice to Proceed

   The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **INSTRUCTION TO BIDDERS (ITB).**
3. Prospective bidders shall submit together with the other eligibility requirements proofs of ownership or lease contracts for the required vehicles and equipment as listed in the T.O.R.
4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to "Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, or to citizens of or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from PEZA-BEZ and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mondays to Fridays.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from October 12 to 19, 2007, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from the address below upon submission of a **Letter of Intent** (LOI) and a certified copy of their **Phil GEPS Registration Certificate** and the **BIR e-fps Enrollment Certificate** upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Ten Thousand Pesos only (Php 10,000.00). The method of payment will be on a **cash basis** only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
7. The PEZA-BEZ will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 26, 2007 2:00 p.m. at the Audio-Visual Room, 2nd Floor, BEZ Administration Building, BEZ, Mariveles, Bataan.
8. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 1:30 P.M. of November 09, 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable Letter of Credit in the amount of not less than Php 134,662.87, Bank Guarantee in the amount of not less than Php 201,994.30 or in the form of Surety Bond in the amount of not less than Php 336,657.17. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
9. Bid opening shall be on November 09, 2007 at 2:00 P.M. at the Audio-Visual Room, 2nd Floor, BEZ Administration Building, BEZ, Mariveles, Bataan. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
10. In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.
11. The PEZA-BEZ reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority-BEZ
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
EMD Office,Ground Floor, BEZ
Administration Building, BEZ, Mariveles, Bataan
Tel. No. (047) 935-4008/Fax No. (047) 935-6046
E-mail: bez_bac1@yahoo.com
Website: www.peza.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **DIONISIO T. SAMEN**
BEZ-BAC Chairman

Noted:
(Sgd.) **DANTE M. QUINDOZA**
Zone Administrator

(PDI--October 10 & 17, 2007)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education – Division of Camarines Sur, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites Bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	Location	Brief Description	Approved Budget for the Cotnract
LOT 1	DepED Camarines Sur	Elem. Tables & Chairs - 1,575/3,150 Teacher's Tables & Chairs - 44	P 3,352,400.00
LOT 2	DepED Camarines Sur	Elem. Tables & Chairs - 1,025/2,050 Sec. Armchairs - 1,450 Teacher's Tables & Chairs - 69	P 3,531,940.00
LOT 3	DepED Camarines Sur	Elem. Tables & Chairs - 1050/2,100 Sec. Armchairs - 1,250 Teacher's Tables & Chairs - 63	P 3,325,800.00
LOT 4	DepED Camarines Sur	Elem. Tables & Chairs - 425/850 Sec. Armchairs - 1,338 Teacher's Tables & Chairs - 187	P 3,390,700.00
LOT 5	DepED Camarines Sur	Elem. Tables & Chairs - 425/850 Sec. Armchairs - 900 Teacher's Tables & Chairs - 71	P 2,566,560.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 5 years with bidder's Largest Single Contract of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Funding Source: Government of the Philippines (GOP), 2006 General Appropriation Act (GAA)

Contract Duration: One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar Days

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

A bidder can participate in any or all the lots but upon winning a lot, he/she is automatically disqualified in other lots.

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 28 - October 5, 2007
2. Pre-bid Conference	October 8, 2007, 9:00 AM, DEPED Conference Hall
3. Submission and Opening of Bids	October 11, 2007, 10:00 AM, DepED Cam. Sur Division Conference Hall
4. Bid Evaluation	October 15, 2007
5. Post-qualification	October 16, 2007
6. Notice of Award	October 22, 2007

Bid Documents will be available from the Office of the BAC Secretariat to bidders upon presentation of Receipt of payment of a **non-refundable** amount of **P3,000.00** from the DEPED - Camarines Sur Cashier.

The DEPED - Camarines Sur assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders- sfor any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) **EUFROSINA P. SABANDO, Ph. D.**
Acting BAC Chairman

(PDI--Oct. 17, 2007)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **ENTREX, INC.** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI - October 4 – 24, 2007)

JOB OPENING

QUALITY CONTROL INSPECTORS needed for the Middle East

- **Q.C. Civil Inspectors**
- **Electrical Inspectors**
- **Instrumentation Inspectors**
- **Mechanical Inspectors**
- **Steel Structural Inspectors**
- **Q.C. Welding Inspectors**
- **Coating / Painting Inspectors**
- **Piping Inspectors**
- **Communication Inspectors**

QUALIFICATIONS:

- BS Engineering degree (ME, CE, EE, etc.)
- Good oral and written English language skills
- Minimum 3 years experience as Inspector and 2 years experience in the field for minimum TOTAL of **5 years**
- Conversant with applicable Industry Standards and Specifications
- Welding Inspectors should have CWI, CSWIP Certificate

Submit 2 sets Resume with detailed job description, Certificates of Employment , other relevant Certificates to:

M C Engineering, Inc.
98 Sgt. Catolos St., Cubao, Quezon City
POEA License No. 008-LB-012307-PL
Tel. Nos. (632) 727-0286, 727-0311/13
Fax No. (632) 727-0608
Email: mcei_engg@yahoo.com.ph

"FOR MANPOWER POOLING, NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED"

TARLAC II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac

INVITATION TO BID

Tarlac II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TARELCO II), intends to dispose various scrap materials. All interested parties for the materials listed below are hereby invited to pre-qualify with us.

Bidders are required to submit the following pre-qualification requirements: Photocopies of Business License or Registration, Latest Audited Financial Statement, BIR, DTI, SEC, Mayor's Permit and Latest Income Tax Returns (original copies to be shown for authentication purpose).

The Junk/Scrap materials are available for inspection at the Main Office located at San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac.

VARIOUS MATERIALS TO BE DISPOSED:

I.	KWH Meters with complete parts and cover	5,248 pcs.
II.	DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMER	42 units
III.	ASSORTED AUTO TIRES	55 pcs.
IV.	AUTO BATTERY 3 SM	35 pcs.
V.	MOTORCYCLE VEHICLE (Suzuki 120 cc, 95 model, Running condition)	1 unit
VI.	OFFICE EQUIPMENT	
VII.	OTHER EQUIPMENT	

Pre-qualification documents shall be received from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM by the Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee through its Chairman, MR. RONNIE B. MANGALINDAN at TARELCO II Main Office Building located at San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac, Philippines.

Submission of Prequalification Documents — October 15-22, 2007
Issuance of Bid Kit — October 22-25, 2007
Date and Time of Pre-bid Conference — October 25, 2007 at 1:30 PM
Date and Time of Bidding shall be announced during the Pre-bid Conference.

Accredited Bidders previously pre-qualified need only to update their files with TARELCO II.

Bids shall be accompanied by a required Bid Bond in a form of Cash, Manager's or Cashier's Check of at least 2.5% of the total amount to Bid.

TARELCO II reserves the right to reject any and all applications to pre-qualify and to bid without offering any reason, and waive any defect therein. TARELCO II reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Additional information shall be furnished upon request. Send all communications to the PBAC Secretariat at the address mentioned above or at Telephone No. (45) 923-0460 or Fax Nos. (045) 923-0471 & 609-0224.

(Sgd.) RONNIE B. MANGALINDAN
PBAC Chairman

(PDI – October 13 & 17, 2007)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education – Division of Camarines Sur, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites Constructors/Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	Location	Brief Description	Approved Budget for the Cotnract
LOT 1	DepED, Camarines Sur	Construction of 1 unit 2-storey 6 Classrooms School Building Construction of 1 unit 1 Classroom 7x7 Repair of 3 units School Building	P6,875,625.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the **last 5 years with bidder's Largest Single Contract of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding**. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/ fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Funding Source: Calamity Assistance and Rehabilitation Efforts (CARE)

Contract Duration: One Hundred Eighty (180) Calendar Days

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Advertisement/Posting	September 11-18, 2007
2. Submission of Letter of Intent (LOI)	September 11-18, 2007 until 5:00 PM at the BAC Secretariat Office
3. Eligibility Check	September 19, 2007, 9:00 AM, DEPED Conference Hall
4. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 20-26, 2007
5. Pre-bid Conference	September 20, 2007, 1:00 PM DEPED Conference Hall
6. Submission and Opening of Bids	September 28, 2007, 10:00 AM, DepED Cam. Sur Division Conference Hall
7. Bid Evaluation	October 1, 2007
8. Post-qualification	October 5, 2007
9. Notice of Award	October 12, 2007

Bid Documents will be available from the Office of the BAC Secretariat only to eligible bidders upon presentation of Receipt of payment of a **non-refundable** amount of **P6,000.00** from the DEPED - Camarines Sur Cashier.

The DEPED - Camarines Sur assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) **EUFROSINA P. SABANDO, Ph. D.**
Acting BAC Chairman

(PDI--Oct. 17, 2007)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **Liberty Aviation Corporation** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI – October 4 – 24, 2007)

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

TOUR COORDINATORS

- Male/Female, 30-35 years of age
- College Graduate
- Fluent in Korean Language
- With at least 3 years of experience as tour coordinator
- With Marketing ability

Please send your application with comprehensive resumé w/ photo at:

MGfnd (Subic) Incorporated
Lot-P1, Phase 1, SBIP, Rizal Highway, Corner Perimeter Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Tel. No. (047) 252-2541

(PDI – OCT. 3, 10 & 17, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT-CARAGA
Butuan City
Pizarro Street, Corner Narra Road
Tel. # (085) 342-52-08 / 342-5667 / FAX – 225-2970

INVITATON FOR BIDS

October 8, 2007
Loan No. 1668-PH : Southern Philippines Irrigation Sector Project
Contract No. DOH-SPISP – S – 1 Schedule 1
DOH-SPISP – S – 2 Schedule 2
Deadline for bids : November 8, 2007

1. The Department of Health has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) through National Irrigation Administration (NIA) toward the cost of Southern Philippines Irrigation Sector Project (SPISP), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for Schedule 1, Supply and Delivery of Four (4) Units Pick-up vehicle Double Cab (4x4) and Ten (10) units two-wheel motorcycle with four-stroke cycle engine.
2. The Department of Health now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply and Delivery of four (4) Units Pick-up vehicle Double Cab (4x4) and Ten (10) units two-wheel motorcycle with four-stroke cycle engine.
3. National competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage; One Envelope procedure.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Department of Health (DOH) Center for Health (CHD) Caraga and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during workdays from 0800 Hours to 1700 Hours, Philippine Standard Time.
5. The Bidding Document, in the English language, may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a witten application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 2,000.00 starting October 22, 2007, Philippine Standard Time, at the DOH-CHD Cashier. The prospective bidder or his authorized representative shall receive the Bidding Documents personally. A Pre-bidding Conference shall be open to all who secured the bidding documents will be held on October 25, 2007 at the DOH-CHD Conference Hall, Butuan City.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below, in sealed envelope either delivered by hand or by registered mail on or before November 8, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of

SCHEDULE 1	Bank Guarantee 1.7%	Cash, Certified Checks, Cashier Checks Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit 1.2%	Surety Bond 2.7%
Four (4) Units Pick-up vehicle Double Cab (4x4)	Php 96,050.00	Php 67,800.00	Php 152,550.00

SCHEDULE 2	Bank Guarantee 1.7%	Cash, Certified Checks, Cashier Checks Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit 1.2%	Surety Bond 2.7%
Ten (10) Units Two Wheel Motorcycle with four-stroke cycle engine	Php 12,750.00	Php 9,000.00	Php 20,250.00

in the form of Bank Guarantee, Irrevocable letter of credit and Cashier's or Manager's Check. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the DOH-CHD Caraga, Butuan City Conference Hall at 9:00 a.m. on November 8, 2007.

7. The Department of Health will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.
8. The Department of Health reserves the right to reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

The Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee
Pizarro St. Cor. Narra Road, Butuan City
Telephone No.: (085) 342-52-08
Facsimile No.: (085) 225-29-70

(Sgd.) LEONITA P. GORGOLON, MD., MHA, MCHM
Director IV

(PDI–Oct. 10 & 17, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES SYSTEM
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the UP System Bids and Awards Committee, University of the Philippines System, Diliman, Quezon City, not later than 9:00 a.m. on November 5,2007 at the UP Board of Regents Room, Quezon Hall (Oblation Plaza) University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City for the selection of rice supplies.

Total approved budget ceiling Php 7,500,000.00.

The Pre-bid conference will be held on October 22, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at UP Board of Regents Room, Quezon Hall (Oblation Plaza, UP Diliman Campus, Quezon City).

Bid documents at Php 8,000.00 per set are available starting October 17, 2007 at the UP System Supply and Property Management Office, Basement Quezon Hall, UP Diliman, Quezon City. Contact person Mr. Isagani L. Bagus, MPA, Officer-In-Charge, UP System SPMO. Telefax No. 926-4919.

The University of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defect or informality required in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the University.

(Sgd.) Professor **ARIEL S. BETAN**
Assistant Vice President for Administration and
Chair, UP System Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Oct. 17, 2007)

AUCTION

www.goindustry.com

Online Sale

(2) COMPLETE KENTREDDER RETREADING PLANTS

Sale Closing: Friday, 26 October 2007 at 18:00CCT (local time)
Located: Cebu, Philippines

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His Excellency, **Bishop Rolando Joven Tria Tirona, OCD, D.D.**
& the clergy of the Prelature of Infanta, together with the

Agapay Family

(Ruth Bajamundi, Eugene-Nelia Agapay &
Nonabelle Agapay as well as niece & nephews)

request prayers for the eternal repose of

Rev. Fr. Edwin Cordova Agapay, STL

who passed away on 15th October 2007 (Feast of St. Theresa of Avila)
after living a holy life for
51 years, 26 years of which were spent as a priest.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 1 of The Heritage Park, Bayani Road.,
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Masses will be held at 6:00pm & at 8:30pm starting 16th October 2007.
Interment at The Heritage Park is scheduled on 18th October 2007
after the 8:00am mass.

In lieu of flowers, Fr. Edwin preferred that donations be made
to the St. Joseph Formation House/Seminary.

Mortuary and Crematory at The Heritage Park

God's Gift,

Hans Arber

President of MICROLAB
Scout Master of Troop 80
&
The Beloved Swiss friend of us all

Has joined his Creator
at the age of 98 on the 15th of October 2007.

His bereaved & loving sister, Alice,
the employees of Microlab
and the young scouts of Troop 80
request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose
of his soul

His remains lie at the Hope Chapel of
St. John Bosco Parish, Makati City.

Holy Mass, prior to Interment, will be at
7:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 17, 2007.

"Come to me all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

LILI ANN TRINIDAD GOMEZ
"IAN GOMEZ"

Peacefully joined her Creator on October 15, 2007
at the age of 49.

Her bereaved mother **Fannie**, sister **Babylyn**, nephews **Joseph and family, Michael, Patrick and family**, and niece **Greene Ann** request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her cremains lie in state at the Capilla de San Francisco, Santuario de San Antonio Parish, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Masses will be held daily at 7:00 p.m.
Interment will be on Saturday, October 20, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.
at the Santuario de San Antonio Crypt.

We, the family of the late

ARCH. JOSEPH ANDREW A. DE LAS ALAS

May 16, 1973 – September 7, 2007

wish to thank you for the faith, hope and love with which you have strengthened us in our moment of grief and helped us transform our pain and sadness into the joy and peace of Andrew's passage into heaven and eternal life in Christ.

Please continue to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:
Head Office:
897-8808 loc. 514, 516;
899-4425; 899-4427;
897-8425 (Telefax)
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912-9008 to 11
Makati:
892-5578; 811-4361;
811-4370
Kalaw:
528-0213; 527-3342
Megamall:
635-0219; 635-0220

**"...absent
from
the body
to be
present
with the
Lord."**

2 Corinthians 5:8

"I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
- 2 Timothy 4:7

So sadly missed and lovingly remembered on his
1st Death Anniversary

BGEN JAIME L. CANATOY

November 1, 1947 - October 17, 2006

His loving wife Zenaida S. Canatoy; his children, Valentin Jaime S. Canatoy, Jr., Jasmine Canatoy-Plaza & Giovanni Plaza; Zenaida Janet Canatoy-Caldito & Anthony S. Caldito, and Lilia Joanne S. Canatoy; his grandchildren Alyssa Zen James C. Caldito, Alyanna Justine C. Caldito, and Jaikimo Bryance C. Plaza request friends, relatives and all those whose lives he had touched to please pray for the eternal peace and joy of his soul in heaven.

Atty. Roberto A. de los Reyes

April 3, 1943 – October 12, 2007
of the City of Puerto Princesa, Palawan

Our loving Daddy has peacefully joined the Lord.

His bereaved family and loved ones request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Holy Mass is celebrated daily at his residence at 8:00 p.m.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 20
at the Puerto Princesa Memorial Park after
the 3:00 p.m. Holy mass in San Pedro Church.

"To everything there is a season,
a time for every purpose under heaven."

MARTINA MARTINEZ MONTAÑA

(April 19, 1927 - October 15, 2007)

passed away in the Grace of the Lord
at the age of 80.

Family and friends request the readers to join the praying for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her body lies in state at Chapel-G, La Funeraria Paz, Inc., Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 20, 2007 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3rd Flr., Andenson Bldg., II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City
Telefax Nos. (049) 545-0292
October 17, 2007

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
1.	J-FILM PHILIPPINES, INC. CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Isao Takahashi/ Japanese	Plant Consultant
2.	TRI-OCEAN COVERING CORPORATION PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Jong Jin Oh/ Korean	Production Manager
3.	PRO SMD TECH PHILIPPINES, INC. CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Jongkyu Park/Korean	General Manager
4.	SHANGMEI PHILIPPINES CORPORATION FPIP, Sta. Anastacia, Sto. Tomas, Batangas	Mr. Xin Zhang/Chinese	Project Evaluator

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

(Sgd.) ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III
Regional Director

(PDI–October 17, 2007)

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENT

Filing of Certificates of Candidacy for the
BARANGAY and SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS
starts September 29 up to October 18, 2007 *(excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays)* **from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m** *(except on the last day, when offices will be open up to 12:00 midnight)* at the Office of the Election Officer of the concerned city/municipality.

Education and Information Department
525-9294 * 525-9301 * 527-0821 * 527-5574

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The following persons are no longer connected with Manpower Alliance Corp. since March 2006 namely:

1. Edùveges D. Bernasol
2. Rosario C. Picaso
3. Aniceto O. Medilo, Jr.
4. Victorio G. Galaroza

Any transaction entered by them will not be honored.

(Sgd.) JOSIE S. JIMENEZ
Corp. Treasurer

(PDI - Oct. 17, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province Eastern Samar
Municipality Hernani

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the Public that JOHN LUCKY DE LIRA ELPEDES has filed with this office a *Migrant Petition for Change of First Name* from "LUCKY" to "JOHN LUCKY" in the birth certificate of JOHN LUCKY DE LIRA ELPEDES who was born on 24 November 1983 at Makati, Metro Manila and whose parents are NESTOR LAPIDO ELPEDES and LEONIDA ROSTATA DE LIRA.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this office not later than October 17, 2007.

(Sgd.) CHARITO CALVADORES-ABERIA
Municipal Civil Registrar

(PDI--Oct. 10 & 17, 2007)

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BUSINESS

RP posts $95-M BOP deficit

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES INCURRED A balance of payments deficit of $95 million in September, its first this year, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

"The deficit in September is due mainly to payments of scheduled maturities by the national government," said BSP managing director Cyd Tuano-Amador.

But the Philippines still enjoys a surplus of $6.66 billion for the first nine months, exceeding the target surplus this year of $6.3 billion.

The strong BOP position has contributed to the appreciation of the peso by 10 percent since the start of the year, making the local currency the second best performing in developing Asia next to the Indian rupee.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the Philippines and the rest of the world.

Surplus items include borrowings, exports and remittances, while deficit items include imports and debt servicing.

Based on the latest data from the BSP, money sent home by overseas Filipinos through the banking system surged by 10.6 percent in August from a year ago to hit $1.2 billion.

The year-on-year growth in August was faster than the 4.64-percent growth in July and brought total inflows for the eight-month period to $9.3 billion, 15.3 percent better than the remittances in the same period last year.

It also marked the 16th straight month that overseas remittances exceeded the $1 billion mark.

In September, the Philippines was also able to lure back $38.2 million to local stocks and bonds, a turnaround from the $246.4 million in net outflows seen in August at the height of the global financial market volatility caused by the US credit crunch.

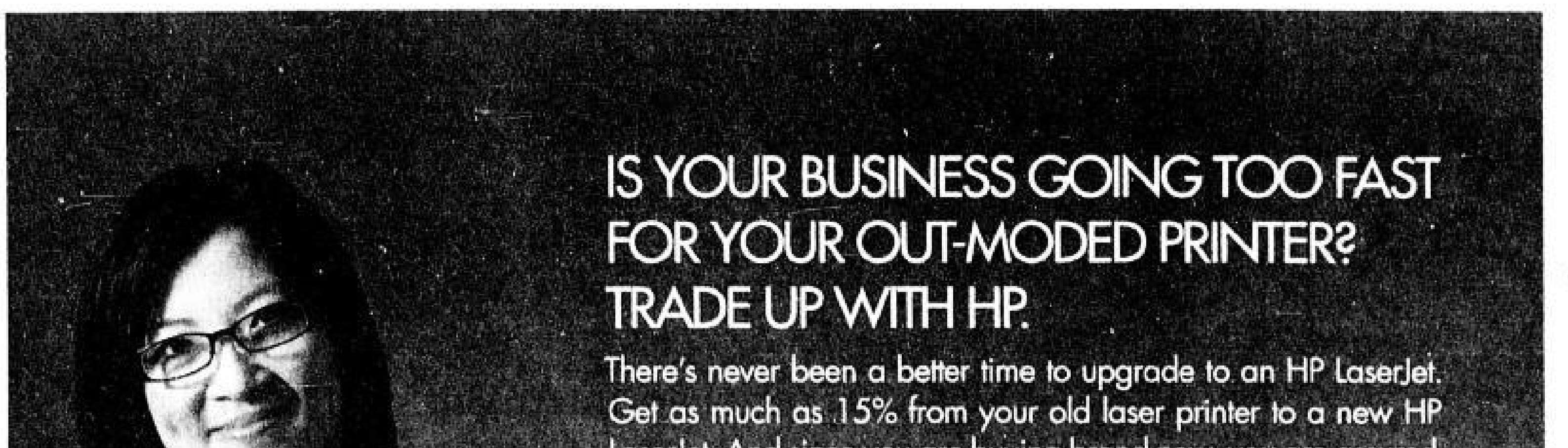
This brought total net inflows in the first nine months to $3.4 billion.

This developed as the US Fed's reduction in its benchmark rate by a steeper-than-expected 50 basis points last Sept. 18 revived global investors' appetite for stocks in emerging markets like the Philippines.

Meanwhile, the country's strong BOP position for the nine-month period despite the rare deficit last month also reflected the expansion in the country's gross international reserves to an all-time high of $30.7 billion at end-September due to the resurgence of foreign "hot money" inflows that allowed the BSP to resume its dollar purchases to temper the peso's sharp appreciation.

The GIR is a key indicator of a country's ability to cover the foreign exchange requirements of the economy.

This covers the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, foreign investments and special drawing rights from multilateral institutions like the International Monetary Fund.



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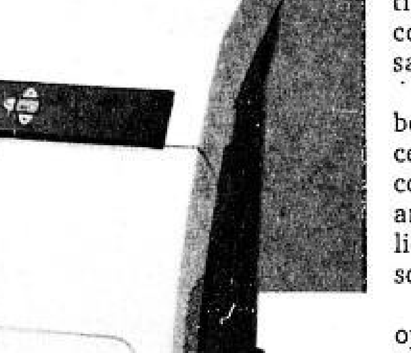

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Per DTI-NCR Permit Number 3340, Series of 2007

Gov't plans to raise domestic borrowings

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT MAY INcrease its domestic borrowings next year, according to Finance Secretary Margarito Teves.

This is in response to the call of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for the national government to trim its foreign borrowings to prevent the peso from appreciating further.

The call from the BSP came amid complaints from the country's exporters that the appreciating peso had led to huge losses.

"The government is not scrapping foreign borrowings next year, though we are looking into the proposal of sourcing more financing from domestic sources to help stem the sharp peso appreciation and partially address the concerns of exporters," Teves said in a statement.

Under the supposed 2008 borrowing program, 64 percent or P220.7 billion will come from domestic sources and the remaining P125.4 billion will come from foreign sources.

But Teves said the DOF was open to amending the program to respond to the BSP's call and possibly increase the share of domestic borrowings to 70 percent.

"We will try to strike a balance between the need to help stabilize the peso and our own borrowing program based on opportunities that are presented to us. We will ensure that whatever action we'll take will be on the net neutral or advantageous to the government," Teves said.

The BSP wants the share of foreign debt cut because borrowings from abroad beef up the country's dollar reserves, which in turn help the peso appreciate to the current seven-year highs.

The peso currently hovers at 44 to a dollar, much stronger than the 48:$1 to 50:$1 first assumed by economic managers when they crafted the fiscal program for 2007.

The strengthening of the peso is credited largely to huge dollar inflows from the eight million overseas Filipino workers and foreign investments.

The appreciation of the peso makes Philippine-made goods more expensive, therefore making Filipino exporters less competitive.

But the rise in the peso has its economic benefits, too.

A stronger peso trims the cost of foreign borrowings, and the savings can be used to beef up spending for social services and infrastructure development.

A rise in the peso also tempers the increase in overall consumer prices, as it lowers the cost of imported goods, which helps increase the consumers' purchasing power.

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Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

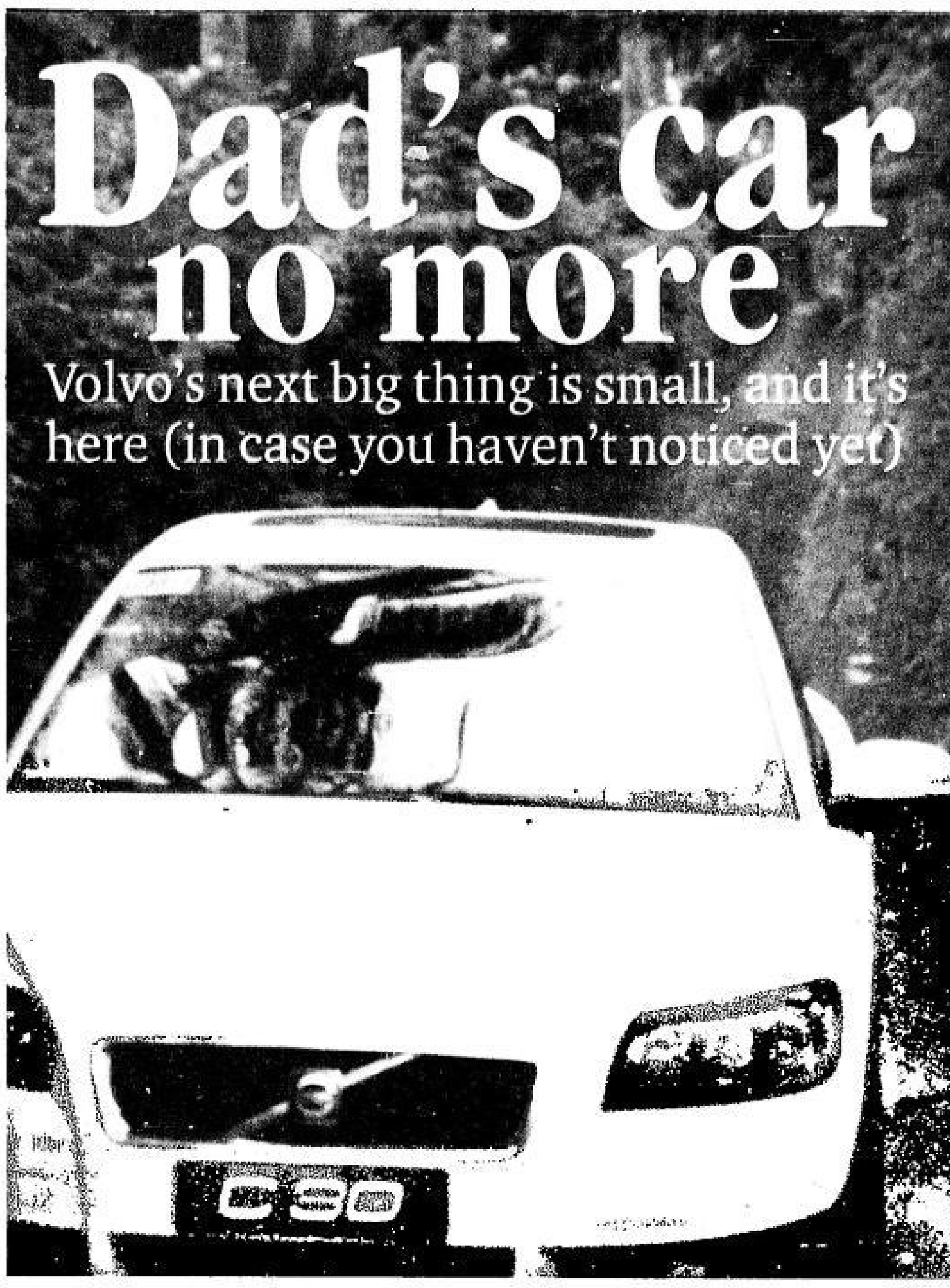
E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph

MOTORING

Text us your feedback: inquirer mtr name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Dad's car no more

Volvo's next big thing is small, and it's here (in case you haven't noticed yet)



SURPRISING baby from Volvo comes with a four-seater sport coupé with sunroof that fits C30's personality.

Text and photos
by Tessa R. Salazar

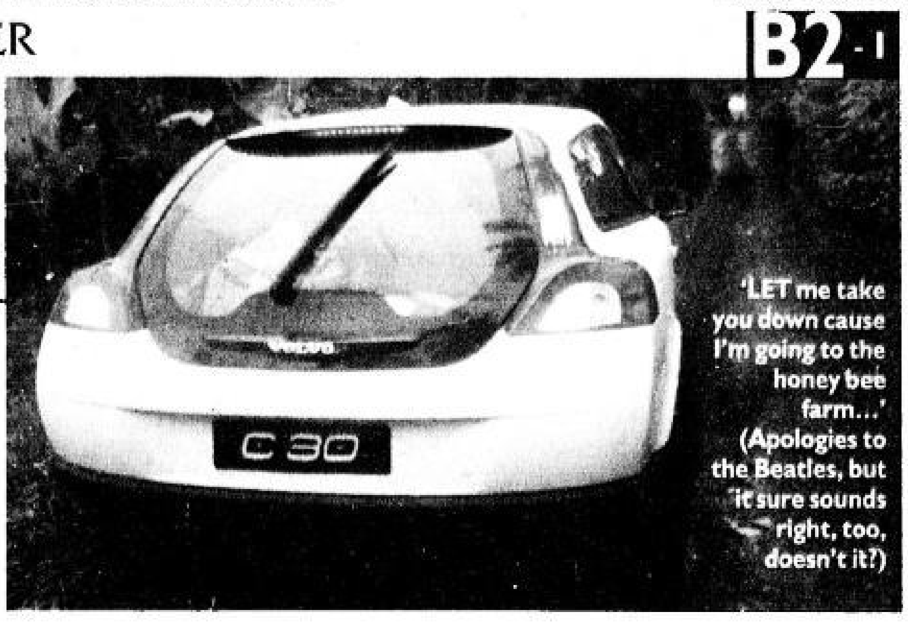
SOMETIMES, THE good things in life come in tiny packages, and that less is actually more. Ask Volvo now about its surprise "pocket rocket" entry in the fashionable premium hatch market, and you will get a teensy but pretty sports coupé loaded with luxurious amenities.

It's the C30 sports coupé, and at a base price of just nearly P1.7 million, it's the least expensive of the Volvo car lineup.

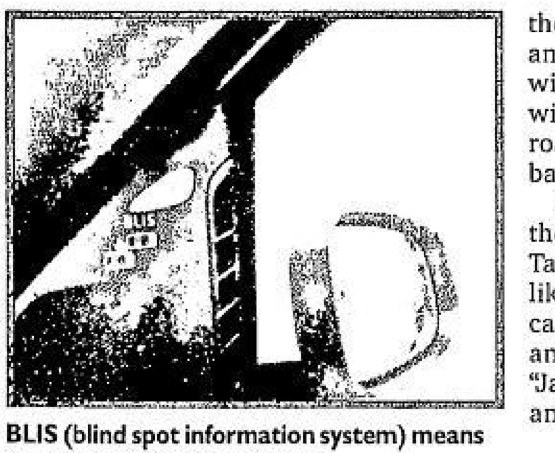
Most fashionable

It's also the most fashionable among the Volvo lineup. One of the designers—Englishman Steve Mattin—once said: "It may be the smallest Volvo but it has the broadest shoulders and the most expressive style. In fact, those rear shoulders are so big that they stretch the limits of what's capable with metal stamping. We could not have gone any bigger."

It may be 22 cm shorter than the erstwhile entry level S40, but its styling may have gone back a long way. Old timers remember the iconic Volvo P1800 ES hatch Roger Moore drove in the old "The Saint" TV series whenever they see the C30 particularly the rear.



'LET me take you down cause I'm going to the honey bee farm...' (Apologies to the Beatles, but it sure sounds right, too, doesn't it?)



BLIS (blind spot information system) means ignorance isn't bliss in driving.

The front looks a modern Volvo though—like the S40 or the V50 wagon, but the rear is head-turning. Its all-glass hatch lid has a "plunging" back line. Its taillights are particularly transfixing at night.

C-30 Special Edition

This writer was given the opportunity to drive the C30 Special Edition with a 2.4-liter, 5-cylinder double overhead cam overnight and a 17-inch Zaurak wheels (The other model, which this writer didn't get to try was the C30 T5, 2.5-liter turbo engine with intercooler). The run started from the rush-hour traffic of Makati and through confusing SLEX widening works, up to the winding, narrow country roads of Tagaytay, and then back.

Does this 2.4-liter ride like the chilly midnight winds of Tagaytay? Well, no. It still felt like a loaded, heavy European car, especially during stop-and-go traffic. You can't do a "Jazzy" zip from one lane to another with this car. The

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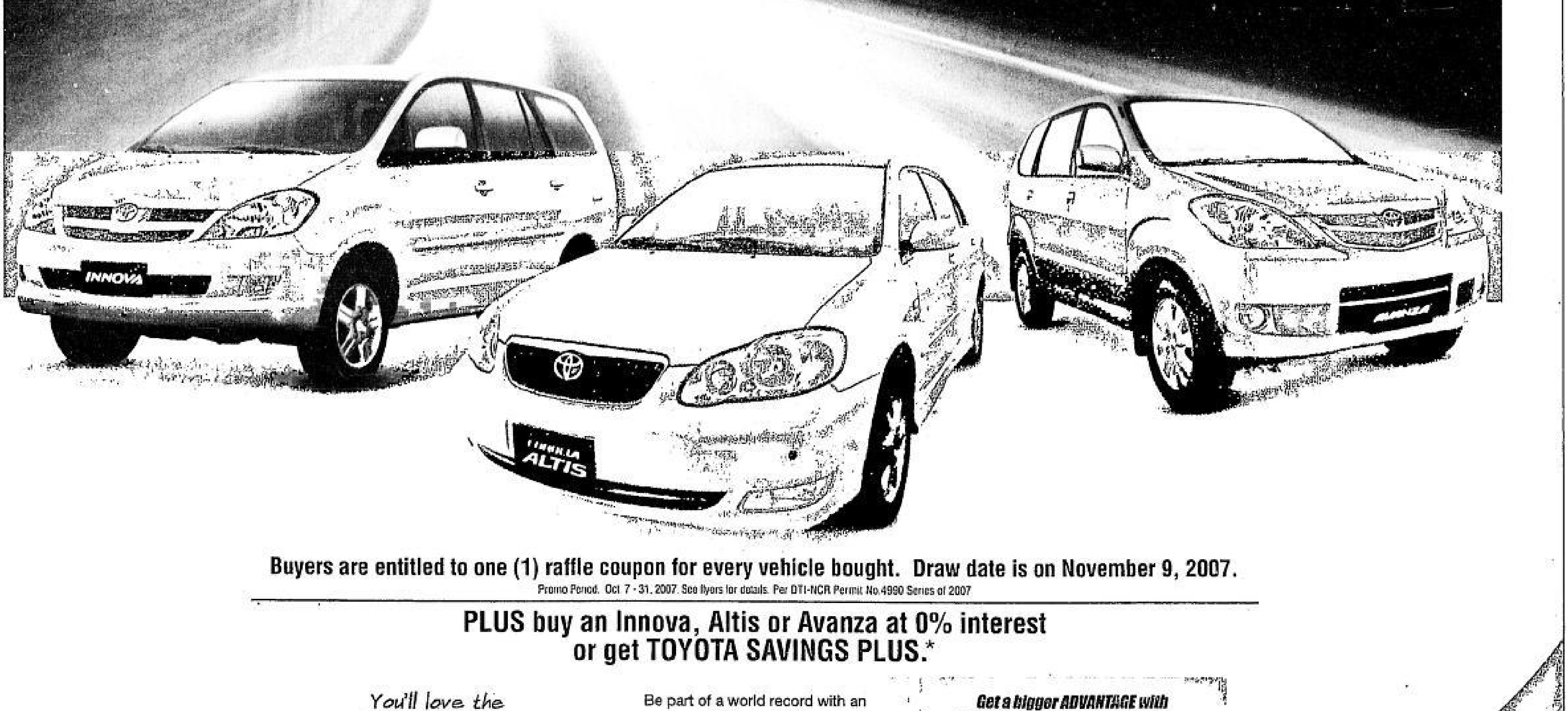

Buyers are entitled to one (1) raffle coupon for every vehicle bought. Draw date is on November 9, 2007.
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.4906 Series of 2007

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Toyota breaches over 500,000 unit sales level

TOYOTA MOTOR PHILIPPINES CORP. marks another significant milestone in its history as it sells over 500,000 units after 19 years of operations. It is the first car manufacturer in the Philippine automotive industry to achieve such feat.

Since its founding, TMP has always aimed to satisfy its customer's diverse needs. Under the guiding principle, the Toyota Way, the two pillars of continuous improvement and respect for people has always been TMP's mission. It has proven to be effective for the company as it has earned its place in being the market leader.

Sincerest gratitude

"In 1988, Toyota dreamt of becoming the biggest car company in the country. In the last 19 years, we have seen Toyota struggle to realize that dream. Now we celebrate it with 500,000 vehicles sold. It is no small accomplishment, even for one of the world's largest car manufacturers. As we celebrate this milestone, we want to express our sincerest gratitude to the hundreds and thousands of Filipinos who have given us their trust and confidence," TMP Vice Chair Aflred Ty expressed in a statement.

The favorable position of TMP in the automotive industry inspires the company to strive harder. The loyalty and trust of its customers motivates it to keep moving forward.

TMP President Hiroshi Ito stated: "Each vehicle represents the optimism for a more progressive Philippine economy. Over the past 19 years, we have invested over P20 billion, contributed more than P70 billion in duties and tax revenues, created jobs for over 12,000 employees for the whole Toyota group, and generated over US$3.5 billion in parts export."

Aware of its responsibility

As TMP has been the leader in the industry, it is aware of its responsibility to the customers, to provide excellent products and customer service.

"Our customers inspire us to achieve greater milestones—to surpass 17 years of market dominance… To maintain the highest level of customer service in all of 26 outlets nationwide… To constantly improve and widen our current lineup of 13 products. Our dealer network strives to serve better, expand further so that we can be closer to our customers. Because the things they value most in life are at the heart of our vehicles, of our operation," Ito added in the statement.

Indeed, these developments are a mere testimony for TMP's constant expansion. It is on its way to the roads of the future through developing more innovative technologies while continuously improving the mainstream technologies of today.

Along these lines, trust that the milestone of selling 500,000 units is merely a reminder for TMP that its commitment to utmost service and customer satisfaction is what makes it a well-respected company.

Just the beginning

"The 500,000 sales milestone celebration is just the beginning. As we remain dedicated to building a better future for people, society and the planet we live in, you can continue to count on us to strive harder to take you from where you are, to where you want to be. For every Toyota vehicle sold in the days and years to come, we will be giving the same passion in every single one of our products, one customer at a time.

More than just a celebration of sales figures, this is a celebration that dreams can be achievable. Allow us to dream of something bigger, something more powerful than what we have set 19 years ago. Tonight, we envision that every Toyota vehicle sold will see customers through their own milestones and help them realize their own dreams of a brighter future, of a better life," Ty concluded as he offered a toast for Toyota's commitment for the future.

Motorshow Cebu International opens

THE COUNTRY'S LEADING AUTOmotive firms spearheaded the roster of car industry stakeholders in the much-awaited Motorshow Cebu International which opened at the Cebu International Convention Center (CICC) yesterday and will run until Oct. 21.

Those who graced the ribbon cutting and opening ceremonies were Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia, Mayor Jonas Cortes of Mandaue City, Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Francis Monera, Department of Tourism regional director Dawnie Roa and Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry past president Jose Luis Yulo Jr.

Cebu auto industry

Official representatives of Toyota, Isuzu, Hyundai and Kia Motors in Cebu have all signed up for the country's premier transport showcase that highlights the vibrant and dynamic Cebu auto industry. Companies representing the automakers include HyperPower Services, Toyota Cebu Inc., Isuzu Cebu Inc., Hyundai Cebu Inc. and Kia Motors Cebu.

The opening and ribbon cutting ceremonies were held at the CICC main lobby and was immediately followed by a media preview of the exhibits. Judging for the Best in Show competition will be held today while judging for the Best Dressed Bike competition will start tomorrow.

Highlights

Among the highlights of the Cebu Motorshow are the Motorshow in Scale, the People's Choice Awards for the most popular displays, and the radio-controlled (RC) races sponsored by the RC Car Racing Club of Cebu. Outlast Battery will also sponsor the Outlast Autocross Race at the CICC parking lot.

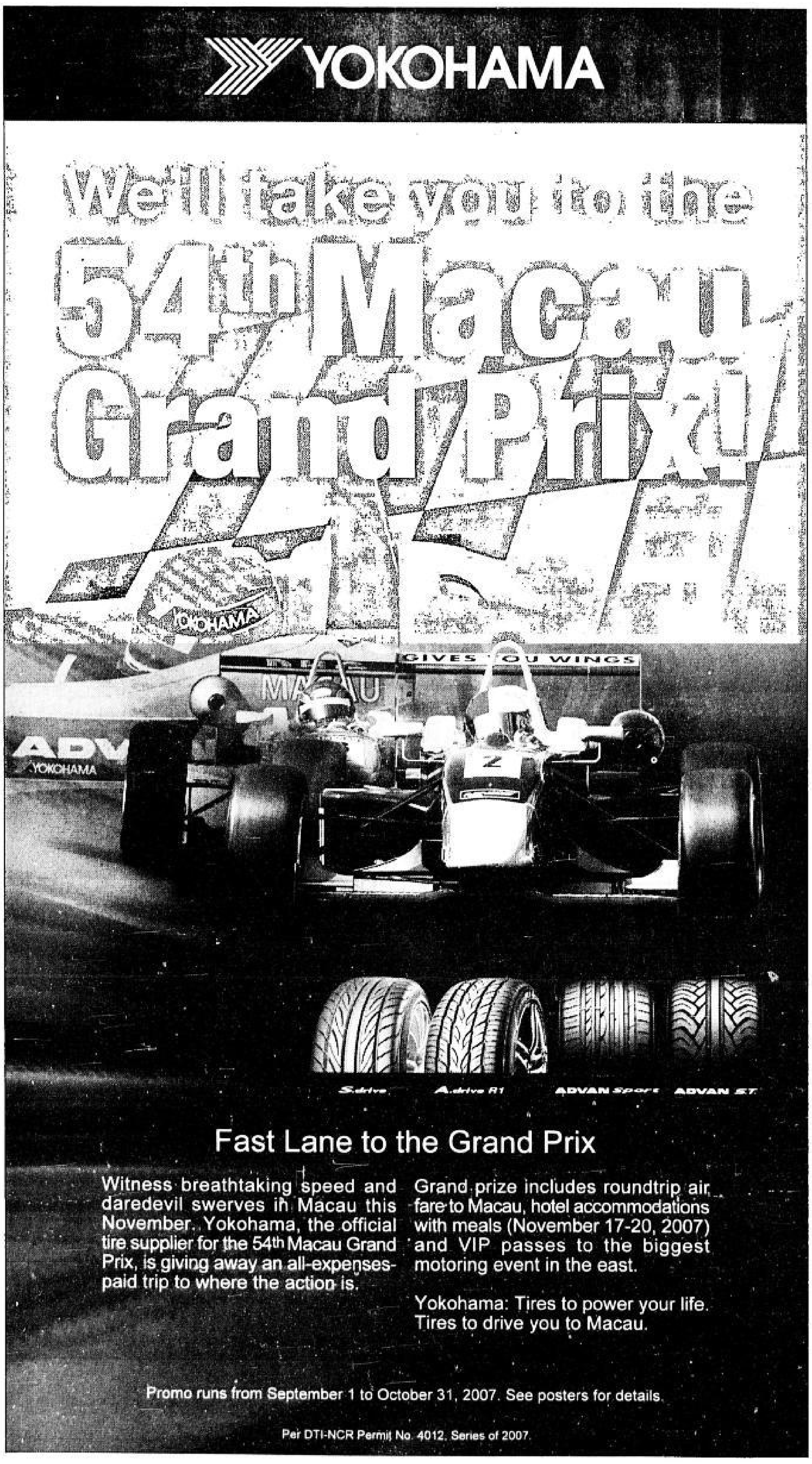
On Saturday, the first Motorshow Cebu Treasure Hunt and Adventure Race, sponsored by Petron Corp., will be held in Metro Cebu from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. while on Sunday, the last day of the six-day event, the first Motorshow Cebu Car Clubs Meet and Bike Clubs Meet will be staged at the CICC parking lot from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Grand exhibition

Attended by thousands of spectators annually, the Motorshow was first opened in Cebu in 1989. Since then, it has steadily evolved into a grand exhibition that brings together top automakers, automotive dealers, parts and accessories retailers and wholesalers, aftermarket service outfits and other transport stakeholders.

Aside from its extensive displays of automobiles, motorcycles, gizmos, body kits and related products, equipment and services, Motorshow Cebu International will also showcase the Philippines' commitment to providing earth-friendly and cost-efficient hybrid and vehicles, engine improvements and fuel alternatives, organizers said.

Cooperating agencies include the departments of Transportation and Communications and Trade and Industry, Land Transportation Office, Land Transportation Franchising Regulatory Board, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Province of Cebu, Mandaue City and Cato.



Fast Lane to the Grand Prix

Witness breathtaking speed and daredevil swerves in Macau this November. Yokohama, the official tire supplier for the 54th Macau Grand Prix, is giving away an all-expenses-paid trip to where the action is.

Grand prize includes roundtrip air fare to Macau, hotel accommodations with meals (November 17-20, 2007) and VIP passes to the biggest motoring event in the east.

Yokohama: Tires to power your life. Tires to drive you to Macau.

Promo runs from September 1 to October 31, 2007. See posters for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4012, Series of 2007.

TRANSPORT TRIVIA

By Emman Cena

Record holders, anyone?

- **Smallest car**

The Smart car is believed to be the smallest car currently in production made by Daimler-Benz. It has an exterior length of just under 2.5 m (8 ft 4 inches), beating its closest rival, the Rover Mini, by 55 cm (1 ft 8 inches). The two-seater car has removable body panels made out of plastic.

However, records show that the smallest car ever produced was the Peel P50 constructed by the Peel engineering company in 1962 in the Isle of Man, British Isles. It was 1.34 m (4 ft 5 inches) long and 99 cm (3 ft 3 inches) wide. It stood at 1.34 m and weighed 59 kg (132 lb).

- **Cheapest car**

It was the 1922 Red Bug Buckboard built by the Briggs and Stratton Co. in Milwaukee, United States. It was on the market for $125-$150. This would be the same as $1,130-$1,870 in 1999.

- **Lightest car**

Cotton weight? Of course not. The world's lightest ever car was built by Louis Borsi of London, United Kingdom, and weighs 9.5 kg (21 lb). It has a 2.5 cc engine and believed to hit a maximum of 25 km per hour.

- **Heaviest car**

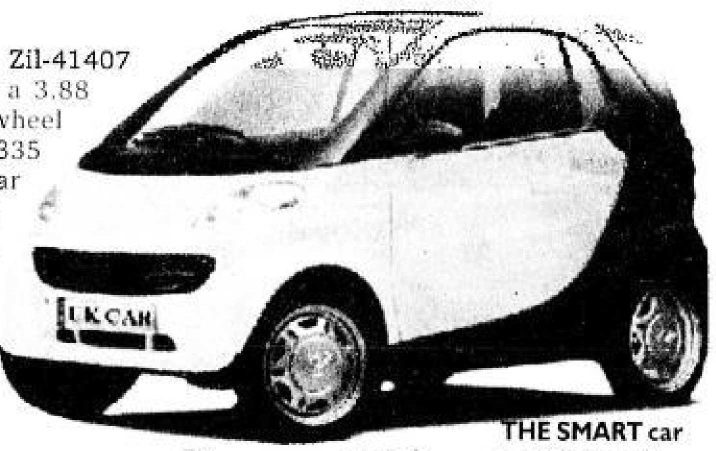
The Soviet built Zil-41407 limousine which has a 3.88 m (12 ft 9 inches) wheel base and weighing 3.335 tons is the heaviest car (in recent production) on record. A "stretched" Zil, of which only two or three were produced annually, was used by former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev. It weighed 6 tons and used 75 mm (3 inches) armor-plated steel for protection.

PEEL P50

- **Biggest car**

The biggest car ever to be produced for private use was the Bugatti "Royale" type 41 built in France, by Bugatti in 1927. The car has an 8-cylinder engine, a 12.7-liter capacity and is more than 22 ft long.

Reference: http://www.uk-car.com/guinness


THE SMART car

Dad's car no more

From page B2-1

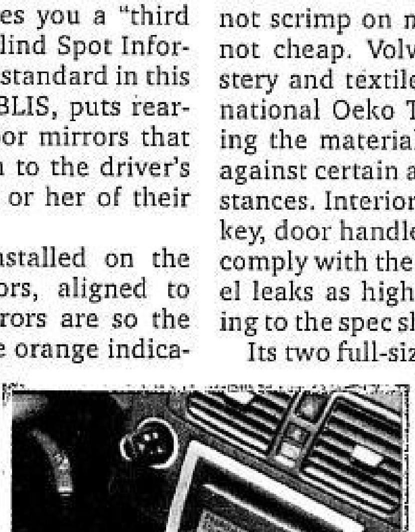
doors for this "strong body" feel heavy despite the car's compact look.

'Third eye'

But the C30, to cite one, has a "magic" trick up its sleeve. It gives you a "third eye" in your drive. The Blind Spot Information System (a feature standard in this special edition unit), or BLIS, puts rear-facing cameras in the door mirrors that detect vehicles moving in to the driver's blind spot and alert him or her of their presence.

BLIS indicators are installed on the right and left front doors, aligned to where the side-view mirrors are so the driver could easily see the orange indicator lights go on. When orange lights are on, it means vehicles at either the left or right side are approaching. It is a fascinating—and useful—safety addition from a car manufacturer long known for putting vehicle safety at a premium. It certainly aided this writer several times in alerting her of motorcyclists "sneaking" up beside her.

A word of caution, though: Nothing still beats actually looking to your left or right to check for the presence of vehicles before you pass or change lanes.


FREE-FLOATING console

Besides the other safety standards such as ABS, emergency brake assistance and dynamic stability and traction control you'd expect from a Volvo vehicle, not to mention intelligent airbags with two stages, the C30 also comes equipped with a safety cage and inflatable curtains to help protect occupants' heads.

Power features

Adding to the "loadedness" of the C30 are a bevy of power features: power front seats for entry and exit of rear passengers; front seats with memory for three separate settings; power sunroof, cruise controls, bluetooth hands-free system, rain sensor, park assist (rear sensors) and bi-xenon headlights.

And when you get to feel the interior—the ceiling, seats, side door panels and the dashboard—you know Volvo did not scrimp on materials. The fabrics are not cheap. Volvo boasts that its upholstery and textiles comply with the international Oeko Tex Standard 100, ensuring the materials used have been tested against certain allergies and harmful substances. Interior metal details such as the key, door handles and safety belt buckles comply with the safety standards for nickel leaks as high-quality jewelry (according to the spec sheet).

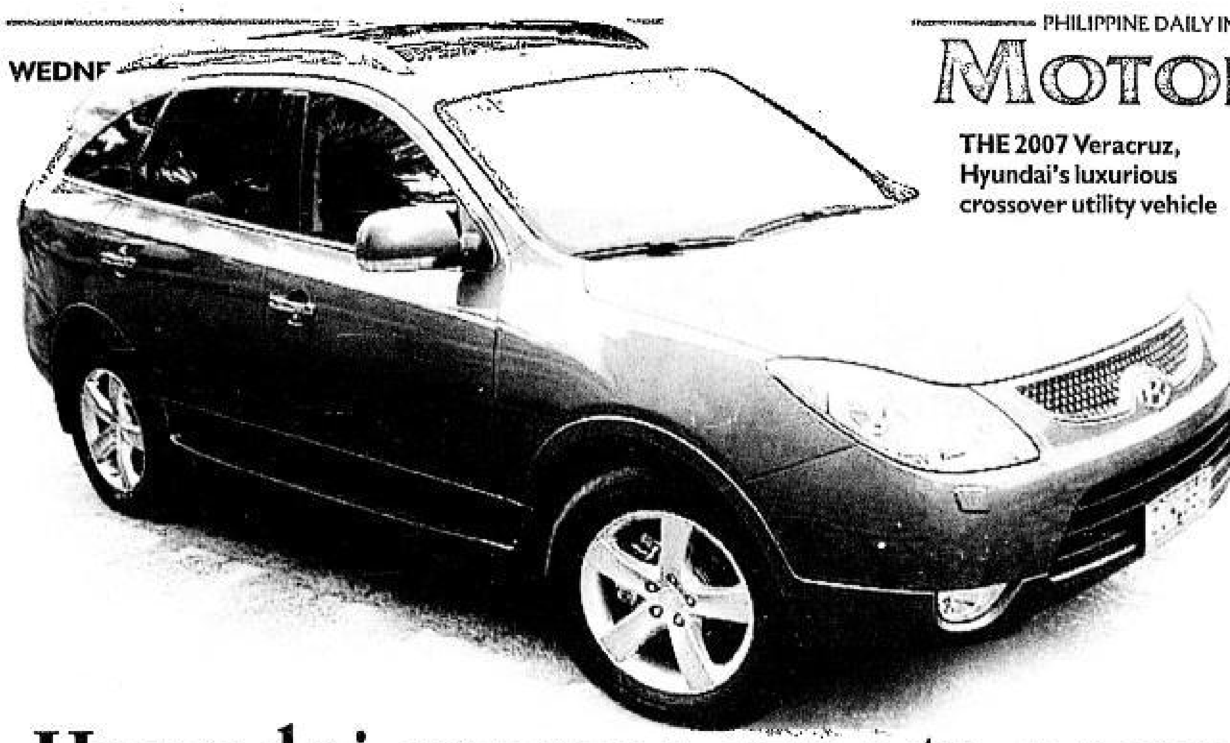
Its two full-sized rear seats have a folding armrest to enhance, as the designer put it, "the lounge effect."

Firm ride

The ride is firm but not stiff. Though the C30 was designed to carry just four adults, this writer tried to squeeze in four small- to medium-sized companions during the trip. Well, what could she say? They actually fit (That's the Pinoy "jeepney" mentality for you, making use of every available space). But this was just a short trip. Long drives in such cramped quarters are not recommended.

For good measure, this C30 was tested on unpaved roads as well—on the narrow country trail in Silang, Cavite, leading to the Ilog Maria Honey Bee farm. The C30's heaviness in these conditions was reassuring.

Young urbanites with active lifestyles will almost surely consider the C30 among their options. And with optional additions—like load carriers, roof boxes, surfboard or bicycle racks, and an i-Pod adaptable audio system—to complete the look, sound and feel, there's really no rush to reach the destination that quickly. Sure and safe can be a bit of fun, too.


THE 2007 Veracruz, Hyundai's luxurious crossover utility vehicle

REAR view of the Veracruz reminds you of the Lexus RX350

Hyundai crosses over to premium class

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

TALK ABOUT CHUTZPAH, HYUNDAI Motor Co. showed plenty of it when it introduced the Veracruz, a Lexus R350 look-alike in the car-based luxury utility vehicle segment. The Korean carmaker's largest and most upscale crossover following the midsize Santa Fe and the compact Tucson, the Veracruz was described at launch by Hyundai Vice Chair and CEO Kim Dong Jin as the springboard for the company to demonstrate its capability to produce premium-class vehicles.

The Veracruz, in fact, has been compared favorably with the Lexus R350 by a couple of car magazines although the Honda Pilot and Nissan Murano are its more likely competitors. With its sculpted front bumper, wraparound projection-type HID headlamps, ascending beltline and rounded back glass, the Veracruz is a dead ringer for the Lexus R350, which costs about $11,000 more in the United States.

V6 CRDi

Designed with the lucrative US SUV market in mind, the Veracruz sold in North America has a gasoline V6 engine because diesel vehicles are not popular there. Over here, where common rail direct injection (CRDi) diesel engine technology has gained wide acceptance, the seven-seater Veracruz GLS 4WD fielded by Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. is propelled by a 3.0 liter V6 24-valve CRDi engine paired to a responsive six-speed automatic transmission. Peak output is rated at 240 ps/3,800 rpm and max torque at 450 Nm on tap between 1,750 rpm and 3,500 rpm.

Driving the Veracruz on the highway, you will notice that it delivers power smoothly and almost as quietly as a gasoline V6, with no turbo lag. The engine, after all, is a high-pressure CRDi system with 1600 bar max fuel pressure using Piezo type injector and a variable-valve geometry air-to-air intercooled turbocharger. The advantages of Hyundai's cutting-edge CRDi technology and wide torque band are manifested impressively by the Veracruz's performance.

Steering the Veracruz is light and easy, what with its hydraulic power-assisted rack-and-pinion steering. The supple ride quality is attributed to the MacPherson strut front suspension with coil springs, reverse L-shaped lower arms and stabilizer bar, multilink with independent coil springs rear arrangement plus gas-type shock absorbers fore and aft.

4WD lock

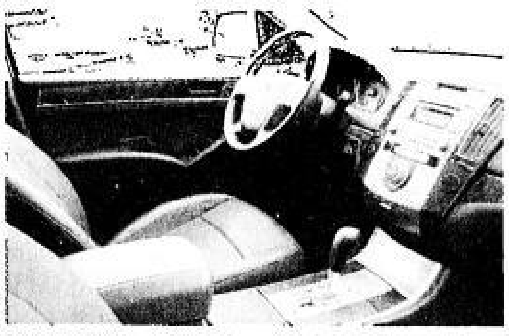
When the going gets slippery or rough, you simply have to press the 4WD lock button on the dash located above the ESP (Electronic Stability Program) button. A car-based crossover marketed as "The True CUV," the Veracruz does not pretend to be a genuine off-roader capable of crossing mud pits and crawling over boulders. Hyundai, for that matter, has no plans to venture into truck-based SUVs or pickup trucks.

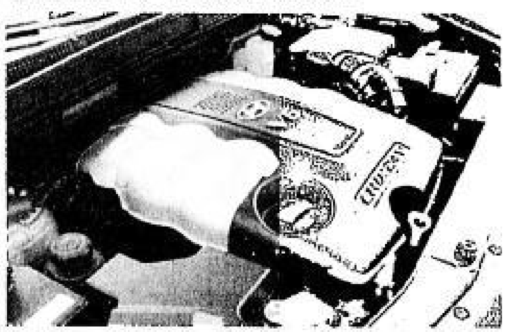
The Veracruz's credentials for the luxury crossover segment are obvious in its richly appointed, spacious cabin with soft-touch, high-quality materials and low-gloss surfaces—dark tan leather seats, brushed metal accents, wood trim and blue backlighting for all interior gauges, switches and buttons. The center stack houses easy-to-understand, user-friendly function knobs and buttons.

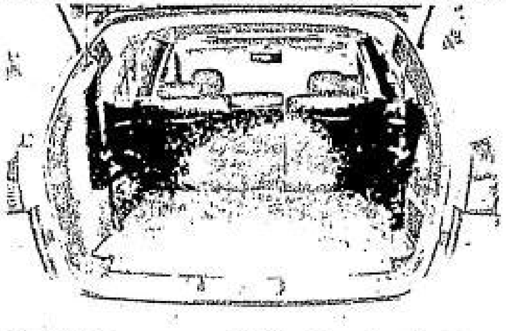
7 seats

The hideaway third-row seat, which folds flat into the floor to increase cargo volume, makes comfortable seating for seven adults possible. The power liftgate gives easy access to the cargo area. The Veracruz's smart key allows you to lock and unlock the doors without having to press buttons or insert the key, as long as you have it in your pocket or purse. The driver's seat is 10-way power-adjustable with an integrated memory system.

Outside noise is isolated by acoustic dampening sheets in the doors and unibody, four layers of carpet padding and a steel plate beneath the engine. The electronically controlled engine mounts and custom hood insulation help reduce engine noise. The aircon is dual-zone with vents at the rear and third-row seats.


ELEGANT ergonomics with leather, wood trim and brushed metal accents


THE VERACRUZ's 3.0 liter, V6 CRDi powerplant (PHOTOS BY AIDA SEVILLA MENDOZA)


THE 3RD row seats fold flat into the floor for more cargo volume

Infinity audio

Unfortunately, the Infinity audio system with 6-disc in-dash CD changer, eight speakers, 8-inch subwoofer and external amplifier, sounded not so premium in the unit I test-drove. The power-tilting and telescopic leather-wrapped steering wheel has audio controls and swivels down when you fire up the engine.

The Veracruz has a full palette of the latest active and passive safety features including six airbags with side air curtains protecting all three rows of seats, Electronic Stability Program integrated with ABS and Traction Control System, anti-whiplash active headrests, 4-wheel disc brakes with EBD, rain-sensing wipers and Tire Pressure Monitoring System. It was awarded the top five-star ratings by the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration (NHTSA) is the frontal and side-impact crash tests and four stars in the rollover test.

Bottom line, the P2.798 million Veracruz is worth considering if you are in the market for a V6 CRDi luxury crossover.

* * *

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Pursuing outdoor adventures with the Global D-Max

By Charles E. Buban

FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL motoring media, an invitation to an Isuzu Philippines event would mean shedding a lot of sweat and exercising your brain cells.

Last week's event was no different as the world's largest diesel engine maker organized the Isuzu Global D-Max Metal-to-the-Pedal Challenge, a one day event held at the Tagaytay Midlands in Cavite.

IPC divided us, participants, into several teams with each team required to earn points from a series of number of timed challenges including driving the latest Global D-Max from one station to the next (careful not to spill the water on the pitcher glued to the hood), solving the brain teasers that each station offers, mountain biking on Tagaytay Midland's uphill and downhill terrain, how fast could a team fix a punctured tire and how quickly a team could dismount and mount the mounting bike on the Thule bike roof rack.

To do all these challenges, IPC partnered with Spyder Optics, Thule EGR and Blade which sponsored the gears participants used during the event.

Points deducted

Moreover, as each team tried to earn points, the organizers deducted points to those who broke the game and traffic rules, or those who arrived late or too early to the station.

When the day ended and points computed, the team composed of Manila Bulletin's Anjo Perez, Daily Tribune's Bam Olivares and this writer, finished second.

The top prize went to the team of Top Gear Magazine's Vernon Sarne and Sunshine Television's Paolo Subido while third place went to the team of Auto Review's Ron de los Reyes and Ronald Rey de los Reyes and Business Mirror's Andy Sevilla.

Perfect companion

"We thought of this event—incorporating the mountain bike competition into the driving skills challenges—to show everyone how capable the Global D-Max is and how this pickup can become a perfect companion for those who want to pursue an active outdoor lifestyle," IPC Vice President for corporate business Art Balmadrid said.

He also added that the mountain bike symbolizes environment-friendliness that IPC has been pursuing with every product it develops.

Known for its tourism and environmental advocacy, IPC decided to organize the Global D-Max Metal-to-the-Pedal Challenge in order to attract a younger market.

"We at IPC would like to point out that the D-Max is not just a pickup for business use—it could also be a fun pickup that youthful owners could bring anywhere they would wish to go," IPC president Keiji Takeda said.

Add a roof rack

Takeda added that owners can just add a roof rack where they could easily attach their mountain bike, kayak and other gears.

"The steep climbs and deep drops of Tagaytay' Midlands clearly showed how tough the Global D-Max's new 3.0-liter common-rail direct-injection diesel engine (with turbo intercooler) that produces a maximum output of 144.5 horsepower and a maximum torque of 294 Newton-meters. These are useful especially if you want to go out of town to pursue your hobbies," he said.

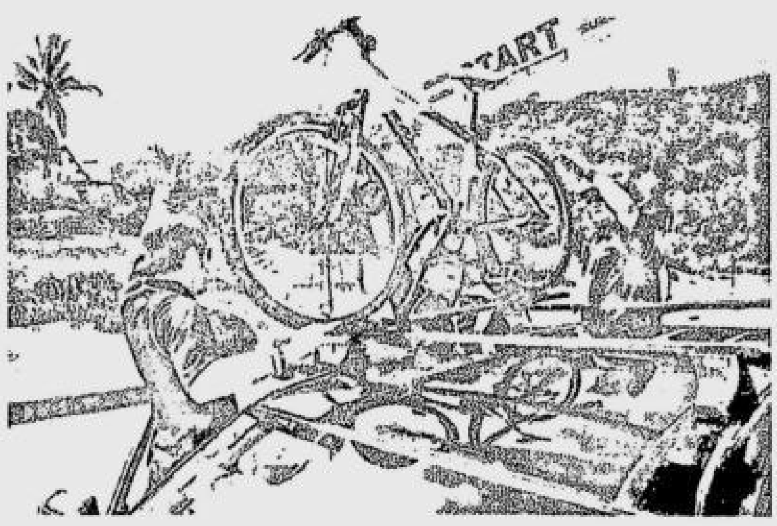
Also the high-end LS variant of the Global D-Max features a Pioneer in-dash CD/MP3 player with USB and iPod connectivity to make driving experience more fun.

Incidentally, before the event concluded, the participants also got a glimpse of IPC's upcoming 4x4 version of the Global D-Max.

To be officially launched in a few weeks, IPC explained that the Global D-Max 4x4 off-road capability should be a welcome treat for those looking for a pickup that they could bring almost anywhere.

WINNERS of the Isuzu Global D-Max Metal-to-the-Pedal Challenge

THE RECENT Isuzu event showed that its Global D-Max is not just for business use but also for pursuing recreational activities.



JUST add a roof rack and any D-Max owner could enjoy his or her favorite outdoor hobby.

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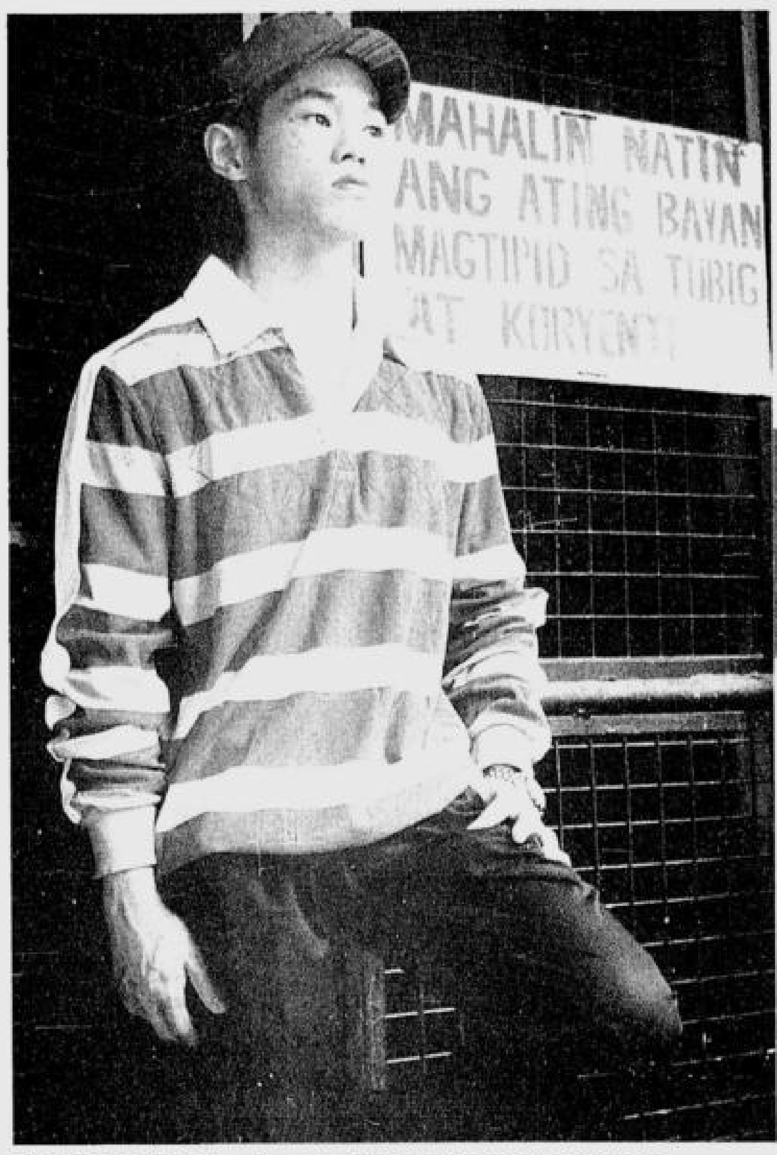
Life in the fast lane

Make way for young athletes Gaby de la Merced and Tyson Sy, Puma's newest endorsers



PREP SCHOOL. Classic rugby shirts can be worn anywhere.

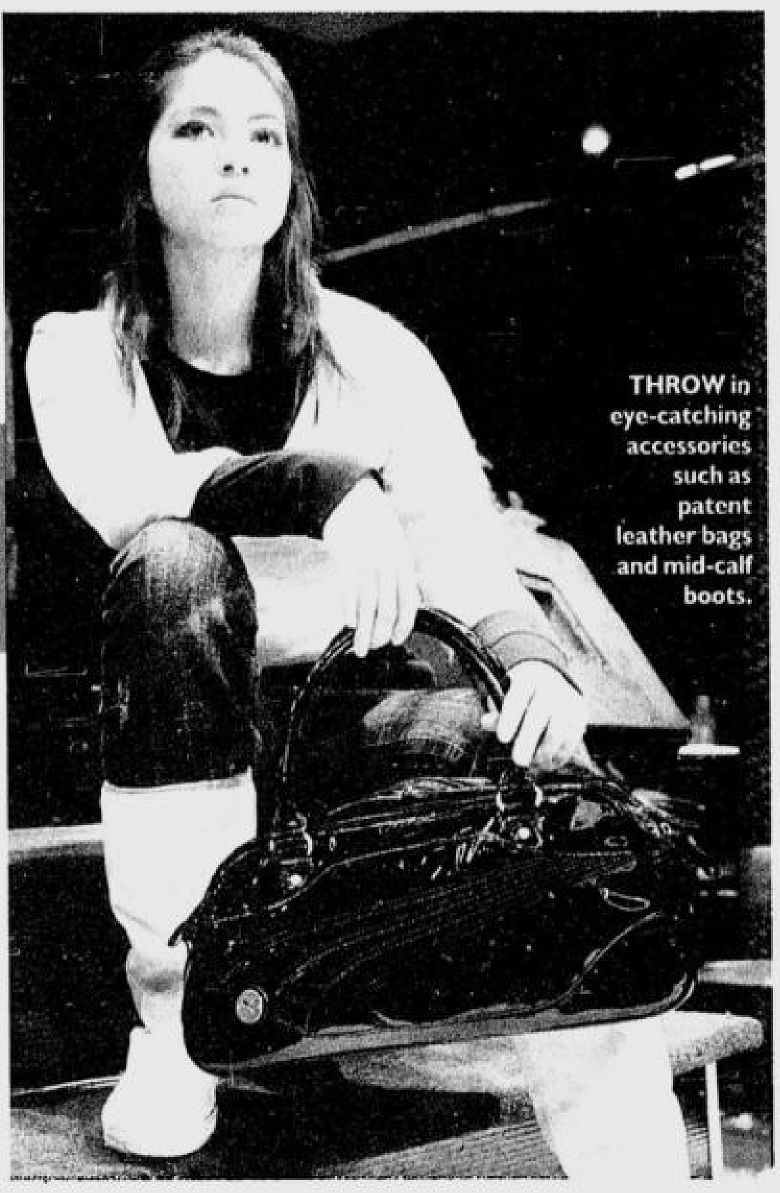
Text by Bianca Consunji
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Ryan Fernandez

MALE CHAUVINist pigs—the ones who blame car accidents and traffic pileups on female drivers—will be horrified to know that some of the country's best racers are actually women.

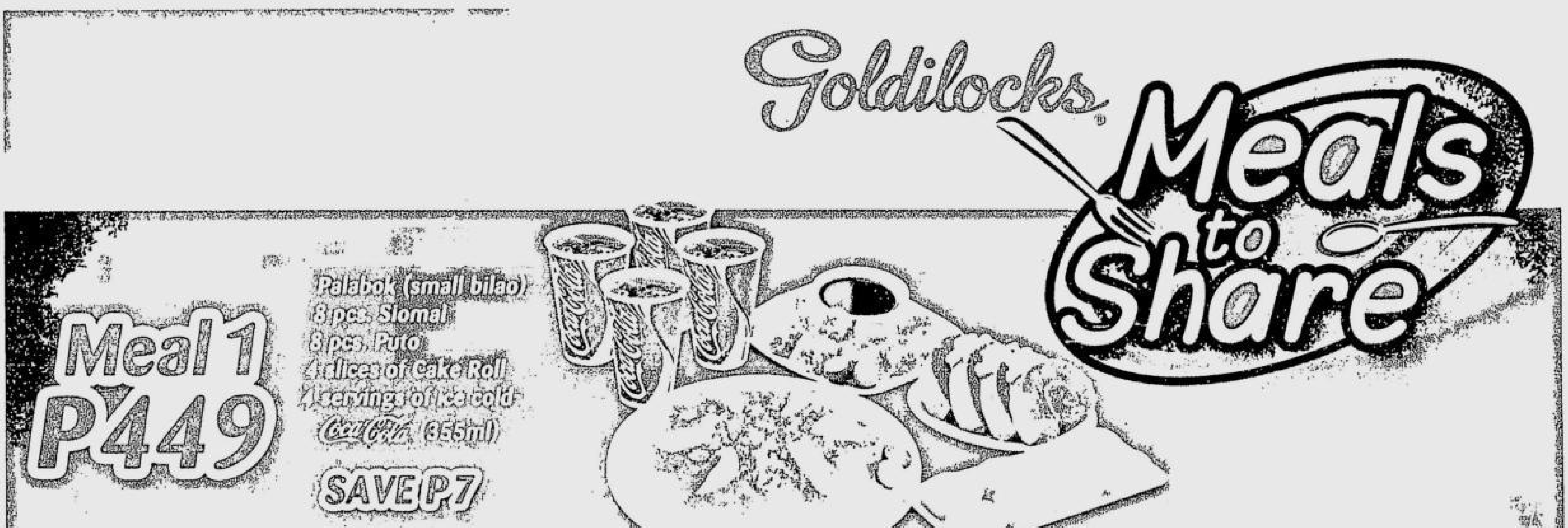
Although most of the country's international standard racers (for karting and Formula 3, among others) are still male, an increasing number of women are making themselves known in different racing circuits here and abroad.

Twenty-five-year-old Gaby de la Merced is perhaps one of the best-known in the country, and for all sorts of reasons. She started racing several years ago and went on to become the only Filipina to finish a full season on the Asian Formula 3 Series, eventually landing first runner-up in the Philippine Formula 3

LIFE/ C2



THROW in eye-catching accessories such as patent leather bags and mid-calf boots.



Goldilocks Meals to Share

Meal 1 P449
Palabok (small bilao)
8 pcs. Siomai
8 pcs. Puto
4 slices of Cake Roll
4 servings of ice cold Coca-Cola (355ml)
SAVE P7

2 servings of Caldereta
4 sticks of Pork BBQ
4 pcs. Fresh Lumpia (Party Size)
4 cups of rice
4 slices of Cake Roll
4 servings of ice cold Coca-Cola (355ml)
SAVE P67
Meal 2 P469

Meal 3 P489
3 pcs. Pinoy-Style Fried Chicken
12 pcs. Lumpiang Shanghai
4 pcs. Fresh Lumpia
4 cups of rice
4 slices of Cake Roll
4 servings of ice cold Coca-Cola (355ml)
SAVE P76

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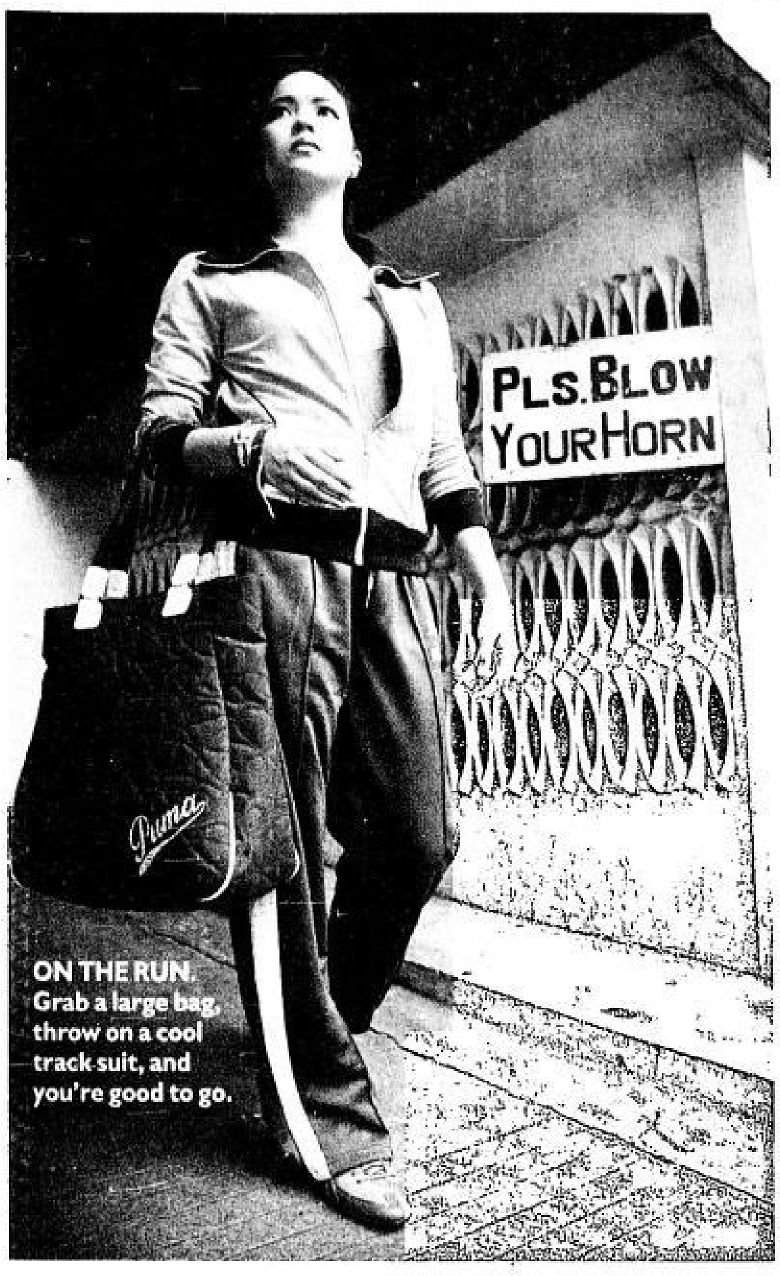

ON THE RUN. Grab a large bag, throw on a cool track suit, and you're good to go.

Life in the fast lane

WALK on the wild side with a track jacket, beret and boots.

From page C1

National Championship. For her achievements, De la Merced was cited as one of Marie Claire magazine's Women of the World awardees in 2006.

Although she already had several commercials and product endorsements under her belt, it was De la Merced's cover for FHM that really caught the public eye. While she gamely agreed to do the shoot, De la Merced emphasized that she was a racer first and foremost, not a sexy starlet.

"I did it on the condition that I wasn't going to wear two-piece lace outfits," she said. "And it helped raise awareness about female racers."

"When my friends called me up in disbelief, asking why I posed for the cover, I asked them if they already read it," she said. "Then I asked them to get back to me when they finished reading."

De la Merced is also currently one of the housemates in the second celebrity edition of "Pinoy Big Brother," dubbed as the "sexy speed demon" and the "extreme-sports lover." Aside from racing, she also dabbles in flag football (until recently, she taught the sport in Miriam College grade school) and Ultimate Frisbee. However, she admits that cars will always be her first passion.

"I want more people to be aware about racing," she said. "It would be nice to show them that it's not just a crazy sport. And of course, that girls don't have to be tomboys just to be able to do it."

It is for her passion for racing that sports and lifestyle brand Puma has tapped her to be one of its endorsers, along with multi-awarded racer Tyson Sy, who was 2006's Asian Formula 3 Driver of the Year. Twenty-year-old Sy, the youngest Filipino to compete in the Macau Grand Prix, recently joined Puma's roster of young athletes chosen to represent the brand.

A high-school student at the Inter Asia School, Sy has won competitions in Indonesia, China, Japan and Bahrain, among others. However, when he's off the race track, he prefers to dress in comfortable jeans and funky shirts.

"I like the design and the feel of the clothes," Sy said. "They're very comfortable, but stylish and casual at the same time."

Although Puma used to be known mainly for its sports apparel, it recently launched a new line of clothes suitable for wearing off the court (or in this case, the track). The brand introduced '70s vintage-inspired gear to its lineup this season, focusing on retro prints and silhouettes.

Drawing inspiration from the heyday of motor sports, Puma offers shirts, jackets, and accessories decorated with faux oil stains and rips. Women can also opt to wear velour track suits that were in vogue back in the '70s, as well as patent leather bags, knee-high boots and suede sneakers.

E-mail the author at biancaconsunji@yahoo.com

Visit the photographer at http://distracted-puppy.multiply.com

GO NOSTALGIC in a vintage gasoline station-inspired shirt and soft leather shoes.

GIVE casual clothes a sporty touch with graphic tees and rugged embellishment.

MAKEUP BY GEOLETTE ESGUERRA (0917-8416699)
STYLED BY BIANCA CONSUNJI
ALL CLOTHES BY PUMA
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PLS.BLOW
YOURHORN

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WALK on the wild side with a track jacket, beret and boots.

Life in the fast lane

From page C1

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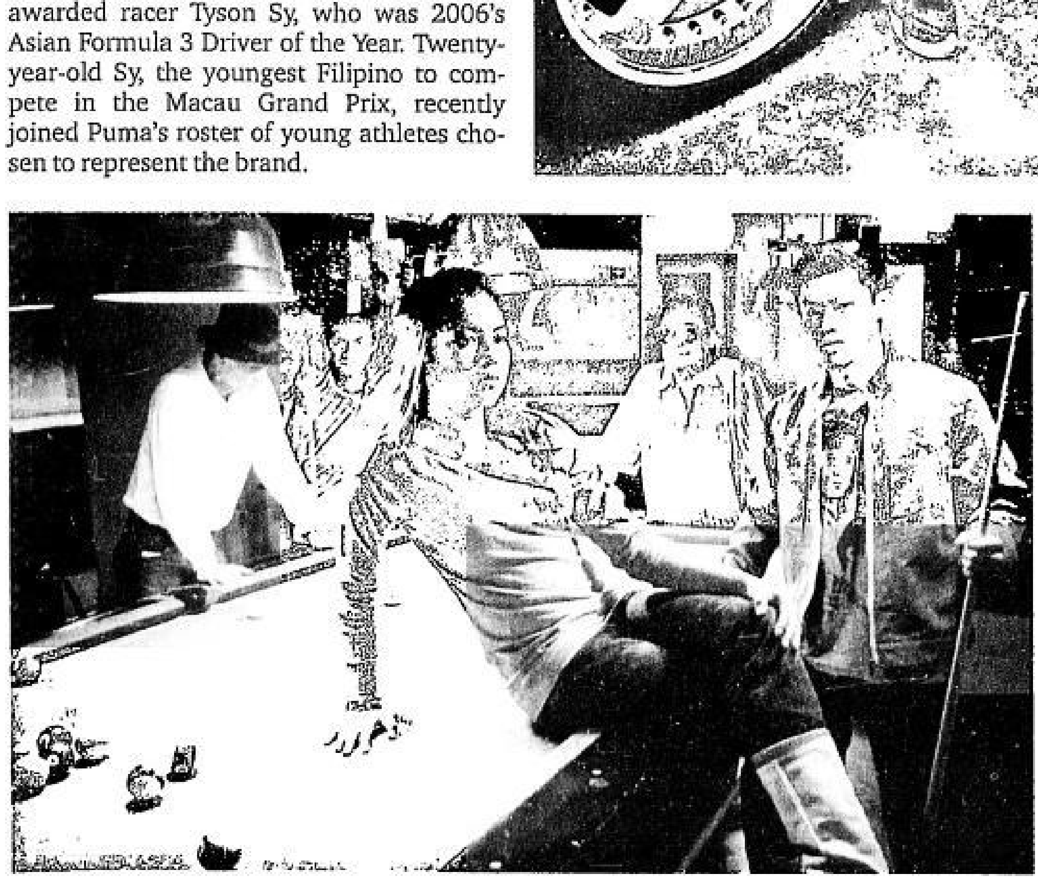

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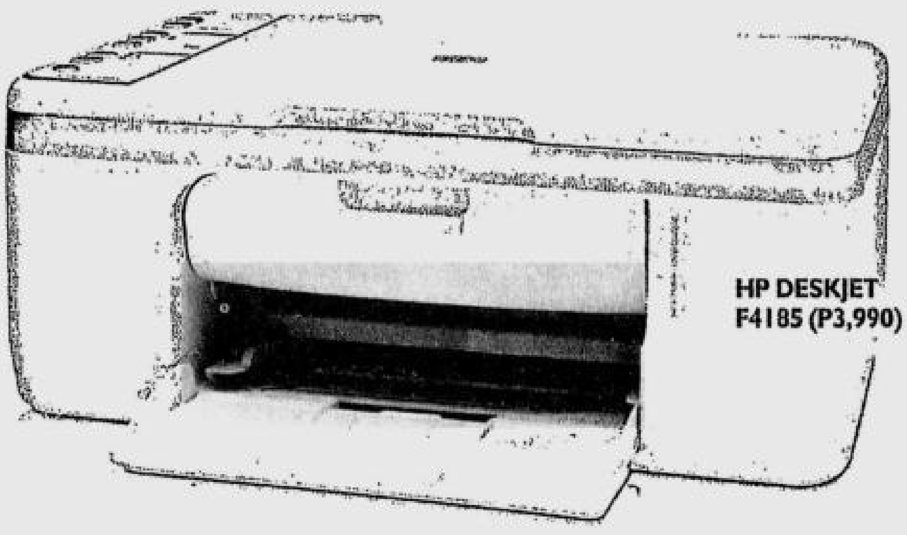
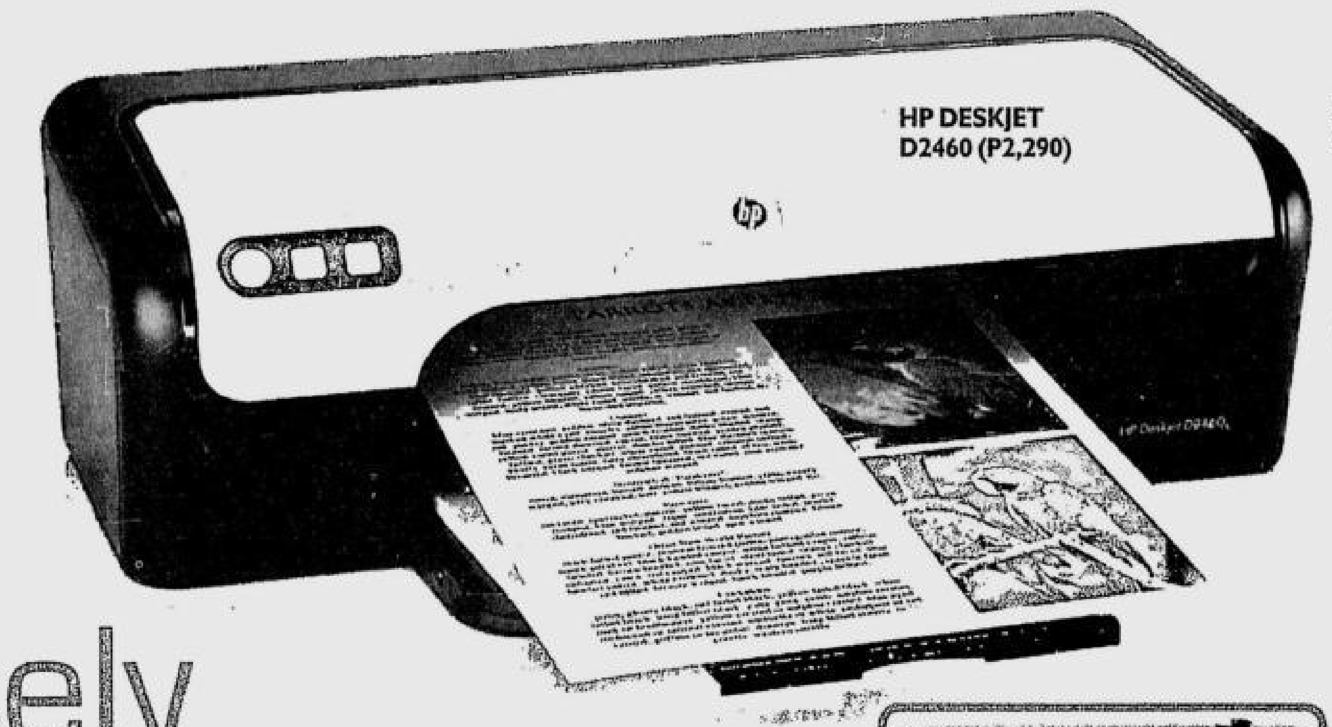


HP DESKJET F4185 (P3,990)



HP DESKJET D2460 (P2,290)

Easily, intimately and especially for you

Hewlett-Packard introduces improved printers and its first smart phone

By Tammy David
2bU! Correspondent

WHILE STYLISH FOLK ARE having their fill of summer '08 collections showcased in fashion weeks across the globe, it's also that time of the year when technolusters are going through the "must-have syndrome," when the tech world releases new products in time for the Christmas season.

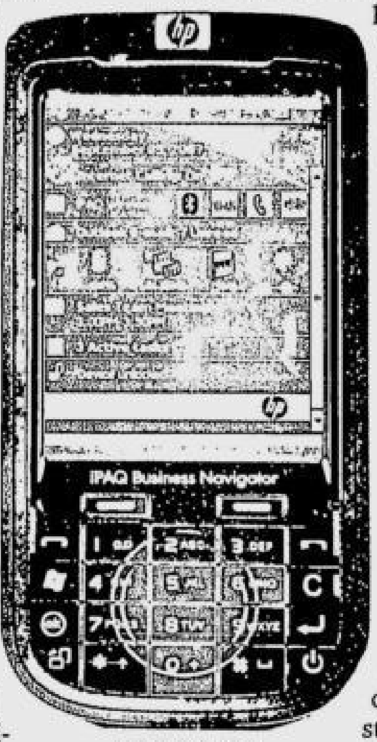
Hewlett-Packard (HP), global leader in lifestyle and professional computing, recently launched its Fall '07 lineup during the annual HP Big Bang 6, which had the theme "Intimately You."

The lineup consisted of updates of HP's best-selling printers, signature iPaqs and HP's first smart phone, the iPAQ, which will surely have both fashion geeks and techno-freaks e-mail Santa their wish list in a heartbeat.

Intimately cool

Some of the many highlights of the HP Big Bang were the six additional deskjet and inkjet printers that will surely spice up your printouts and workstation. With the latest features, users can expect an easy, reliable and intimate printing experience.

No more bulky designs that eat up space. With the one-touch button, no more unplugging to abort unwanted printing jobs. With the HP Smart Web Printing, which allows users to print what they see on the web, no more paper waste on incomplete web printouts.



HP iPAQ 612
Business Navigator

With the HP Photosmart All-in-one printer, scanner and copier, no more purchasing extra equipment. And with HPs affordable high-quality ink cartridges, no more resorting to low-quality ink refilling stations to save on cost.

HP Print 2.0

HP also presented its latest strategy "Print 2.0," which aims "to make printing relevant and empowering as both personal and professional content increasingly moves from the desktop to the web."

MARGARET Ong ,vice president, HP Imaging & Printing Group-Southeast Asia

The Print 2.0 has three strategies, according to its press statement: "Delivering next-generation digital printing platforms designed to increase print speeds and lower the cost of printing for high-volume commercial markets; making it easier to print from the web through new initiatives to enhance print functionality for websites and bringing new print capabilities to online properties; and lastly, extend the company's digital content creation and publishing platforms—for example, Snapfish and Logoworks—across customer segments spanning from consumers to enterprises."

Smart phone

Apart from the printers, HP unveiled five new iPaqs--the most in the company's history—for users "to experience true mobile personal and professional connectivity": the iPAQ 912 Business Messenger, iPAQ 612 Business Navigator, iPAQ 212 Enterprise Handheld and HP iPAQ 112 Classic Handheld .

Gadget lovers and loyal iPAQ users can enjoy the latest 3G converged handhelds and traditional pen-based personal digital assistants (PDAs), as well as a personal navigation device all equipped with Microsoft Mobile 6, to aid their fast paced life. The HP iPAQs are expected to be locally available beginning in November 2007.

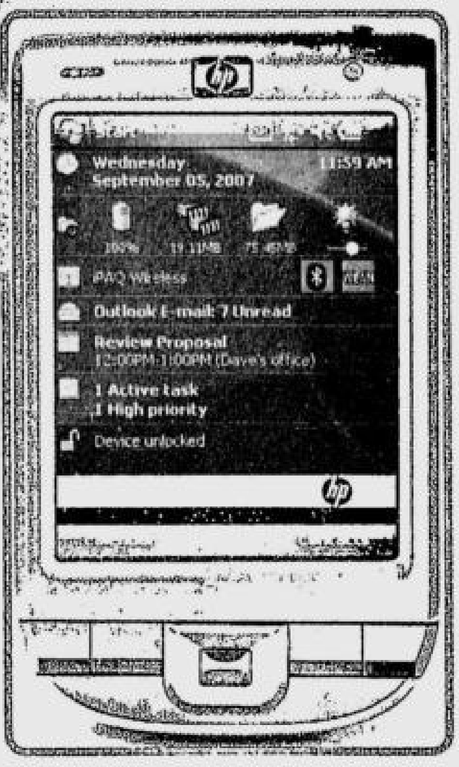
Green technology

Not only is HP updated and moving forward with its product lineup, it also active in promoting the best trend of the year, saving the environment with the Green Technology.

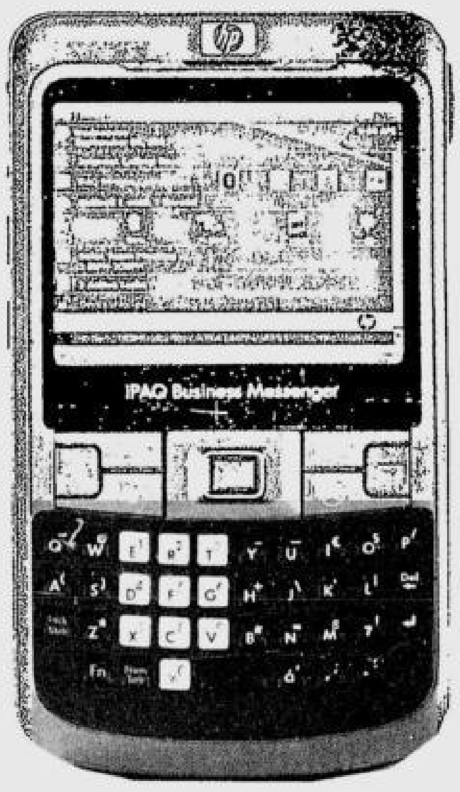
"Our printer today supports recycled paper. We have a listing of recycled paper that we support. With our cartridges, we have a recycling program. We introduced 'Planet Partner' (since 1992) program for our most valuable customers, corporate enterprise whereas we encourage customers to return cartridges and toners for recycling. Up to 90 percent are recycled today of those materials are recycled today. It's part of our contribution to environmental-friendliness," said Margaret Ong of HP Imaging & Printing Group Southeast Asia.

"Toners are not recycled in the sense they are reused. They are disassembled and made into other products like buttons or plastic containers. When we manufacture the cartridges we already have that environmental goal in my mind," said Jenny Sotto-Siquioco of HP Philippines.

Prices are subject to change. Visit www.hp.com.
E-mail tammydavid@gmail.com



HP IPAQ 112 Classic Handheld



HP iPAQ 912 Business Messenger

Who do you want to thank?

IN CELEBRATION OF National Thank You Day, Toblerone is holding a special Thank You Day concert at the SM Mall of Asia on Oct. 20.

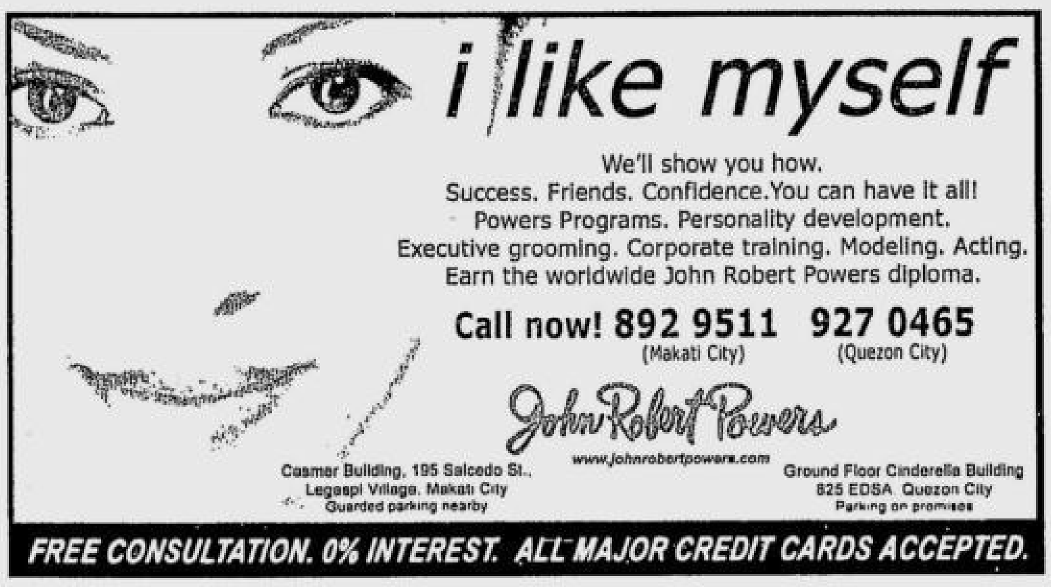
Expect performances from your favorite musical acts including Cynthia Alexander, Hale, Francis M, Stonefree, Reggae Mistress.

Because 2bU! wants to help push the importance of being grateful, we want to ask you these questions:

Who do you want to thank and how would you thank them?

The first 200 participants will receive special Toblerone thank you cards and Thank You Day concert tickets. The senders of the 50 best entries will receive special Thank You Day CDs.

E-mail thankyoudayphilippines@gmail.com. Visit www.thankyoudayphilippines.com



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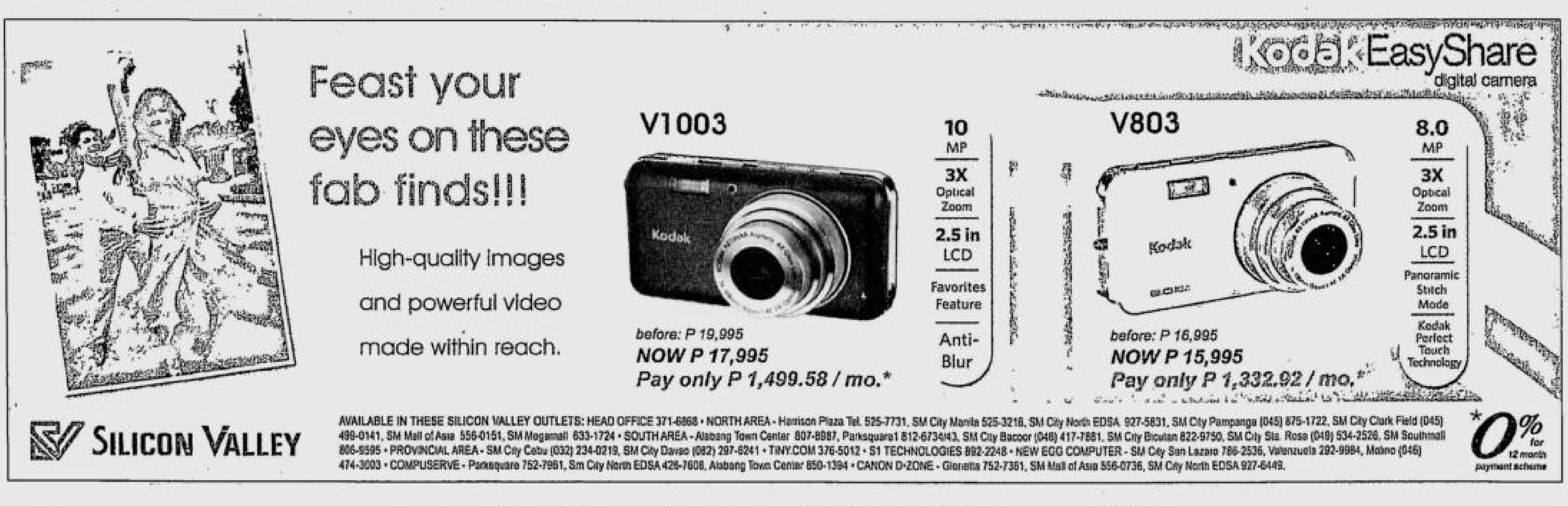

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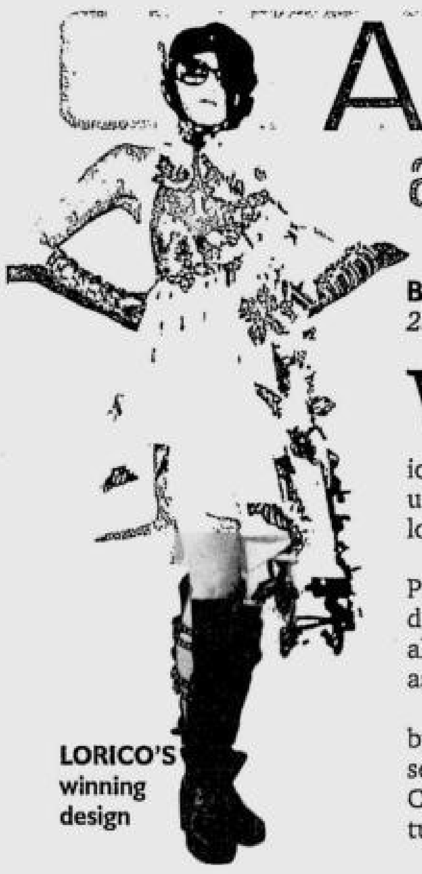
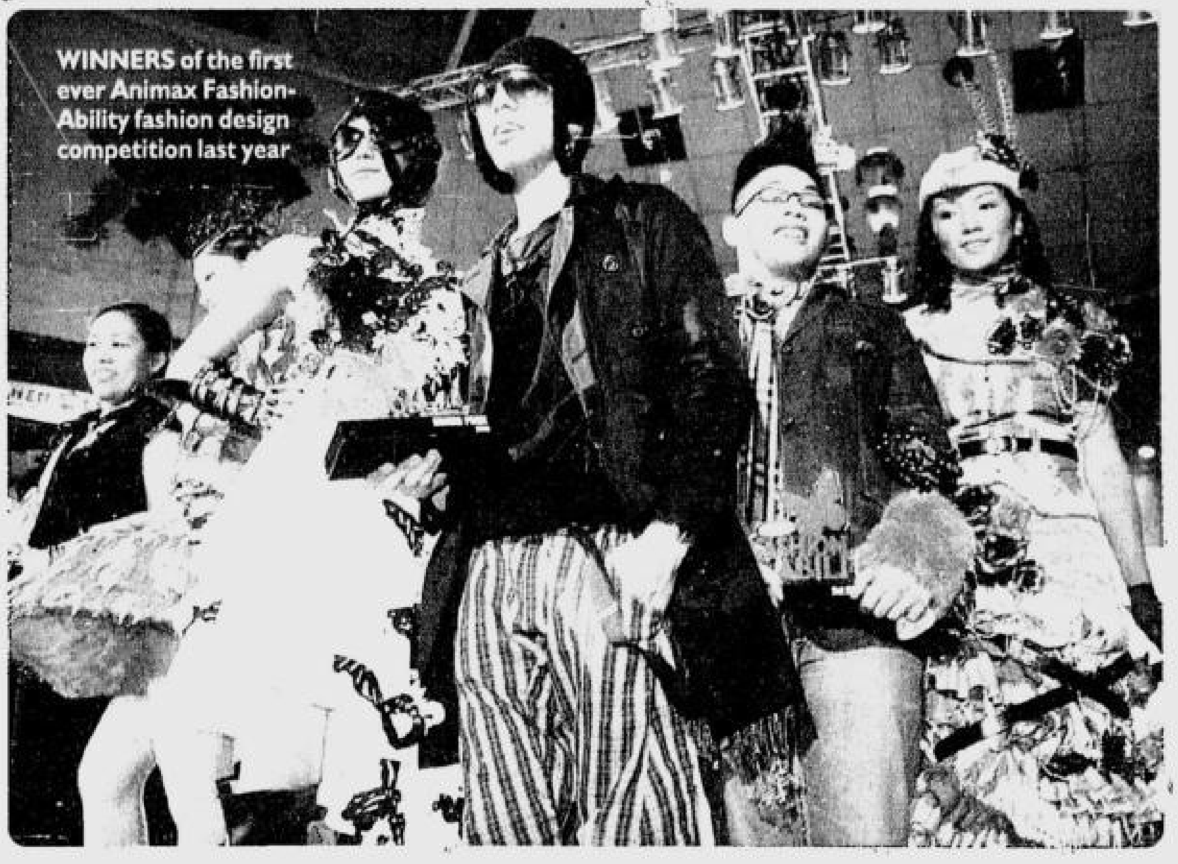
Alumnus ascendant

Youth channel Animax lends all-out support to Tokyo-bound Filipino designer Jerome Lorico, a product of its own fashion-design competition

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent



LORICO'S winning design



WINNERS of the first ever Animax Fashion-Ability fashion design competition last year

WHEN JEROME LORICO WAS crowned last year in the first-ever Animax Fashion-Ability, a fashion-design competition inspired by a particular animé series from the cable channel, a lot of doors naturally opened for him.

Not only was he able to join the 2007 Philippine Fashion Week, the 23-year-old designer also got to participate in the annual Philippine Fashion Design Competition as one of the Top 10 finalists.

Originally, the Top 10 entries produced by the competition were supposed to represent the country in Paris, France, for the Concours Internationale Des Jeunes Creatures De Mode. Unfortunately, sponsors for the event this year have withdrawn their support, consequently putting an end to a more than 20-year tradition of healthy fashion competition among different countries.

Other countries, though, have put up similar events. Japan's International Fashion Design Competition for instance, is attracting young fashion talents all over the world—including Lorico.

"Because of this, it sparked hope for a young designer like me to finally have the chance to showcase Filipino talent in the international fashion arena," he says.

After he was anointed by the Fashion and Design Council of the Philippines as the country's representative, Lorico's works were screened for the International Fashion Design Competition in Japan. Impressed with Lorico's work, the Japan screening committee selected the designer to represent the Philippines in the final competition Oct. 20 in Tokyo, Japan.

While it's a great honor for Lorico, it also posted a big problem since the designer didn't have the means to shoulder his airfare ticket. But driven by his dream, he knocked on the door of Animax—and wasn't disappointed.

Committed to youth empowerment, Animax didn't think twice about helping Lorico, a product of their first-ever Fashion-Ability competition.

"I'm really happy and grateful to Animax since I wasn't expecting that huge support would still come from them after the Fashion-Ability competition," shares Lorico.

"And now that I am embarking on something bigger, they are still there to back me up all the way. I thought their support would also end after the competition, but surprisingly they are still around to support me in this new challenge that I am about to face. It is great since they've become a second family to me. I know they understand what I've been going through as a young and struggling designer."

Fashion-Ability, Year 2

Lorico is a perfect example of how effective and beneficial talent searches are, just like Fashion-Ability. This is why Animax has decided to hold year two of its very successful interschool competition for student designers.

This time, the theme is the cable channel's new show, "Le Chevalier D'Eon," an exciting fantasy series set in France during the 18th century. Designs should showcase the charm of French-inspired couture, be they pleats, petticoats or patterns. But instead of the long, elegant gowns seen in the animated series, designs should be modern and wearable enough for today's teenagers.

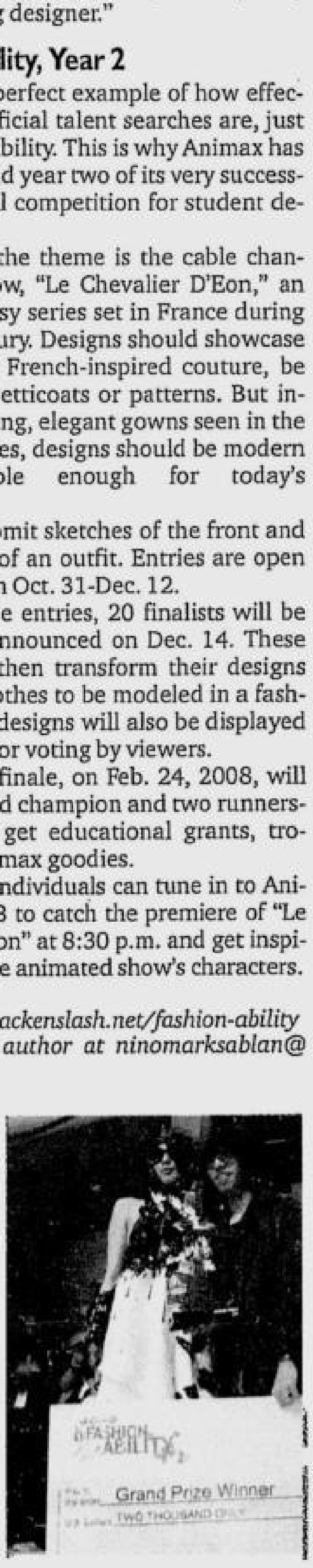
To join, submit sketches of the front and back designs of an outfit. Entries are open for submission Oct. 31-Dec. 12.

From all the entries, 20 finalists will be chosen and announced on Dec. 14. These finalists will then transform their designs into actual clothes to be modeled in a fashion show. All designs will also be displayed on a website for voting by viewers.

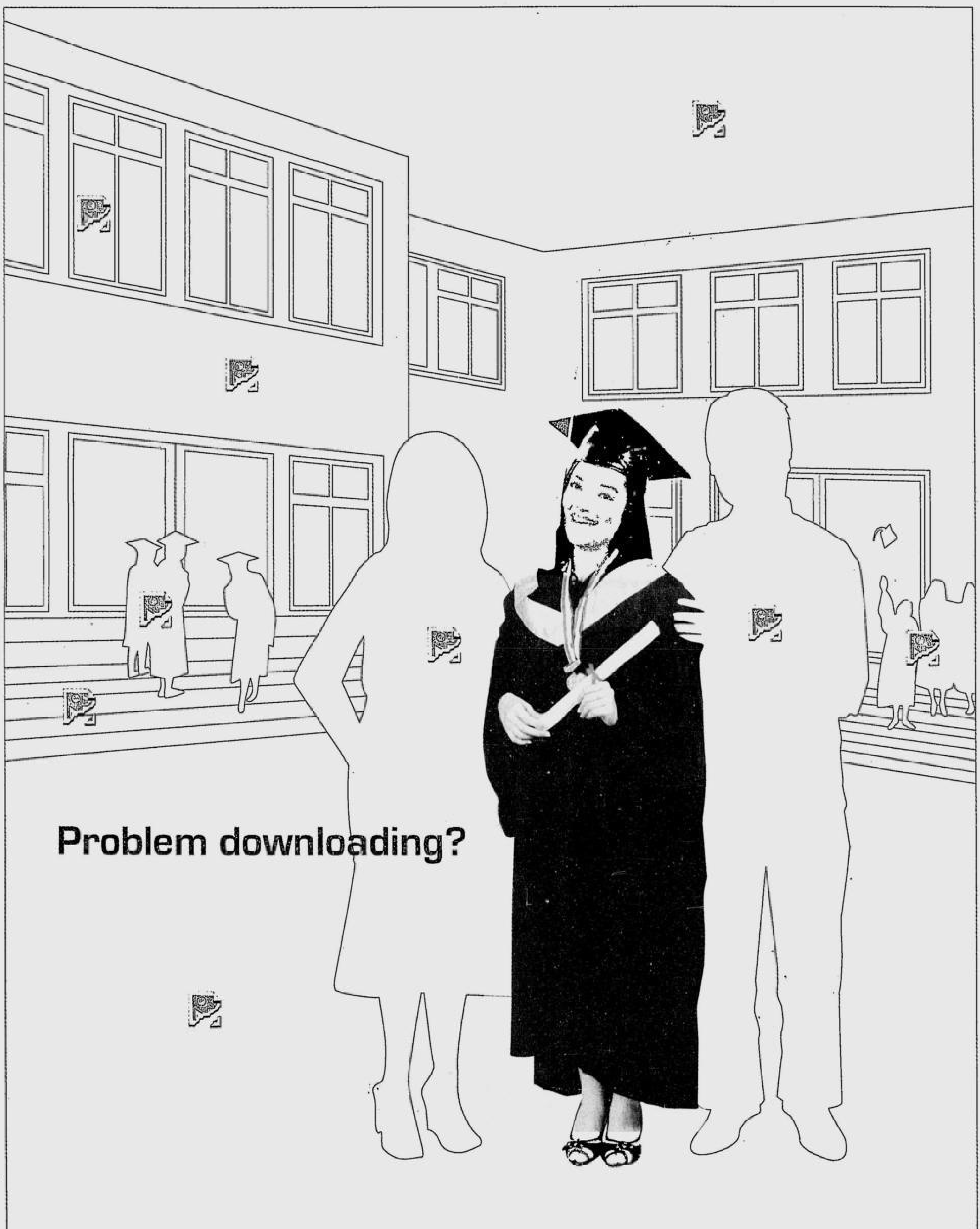
The grand finale, on Feb. 24, 2008, will choose a grand champion and two runners-up who will get educational grants, trophies and Animax goodies.

Interested individuals can tune in to Animax on Nov. 3 to catch the premiere of "Le Chevalier D'Eon" at 8:30 p.m. and get inspiration from the animated show's characters.

Visit www.hackenslash.net/fashion-ability
E-mail the author at ninomarksablan@yahoo.com



ANIMAX grants top winner Jerome Lorico cash prize, educational grant and a surprise bonus prize a year after he won.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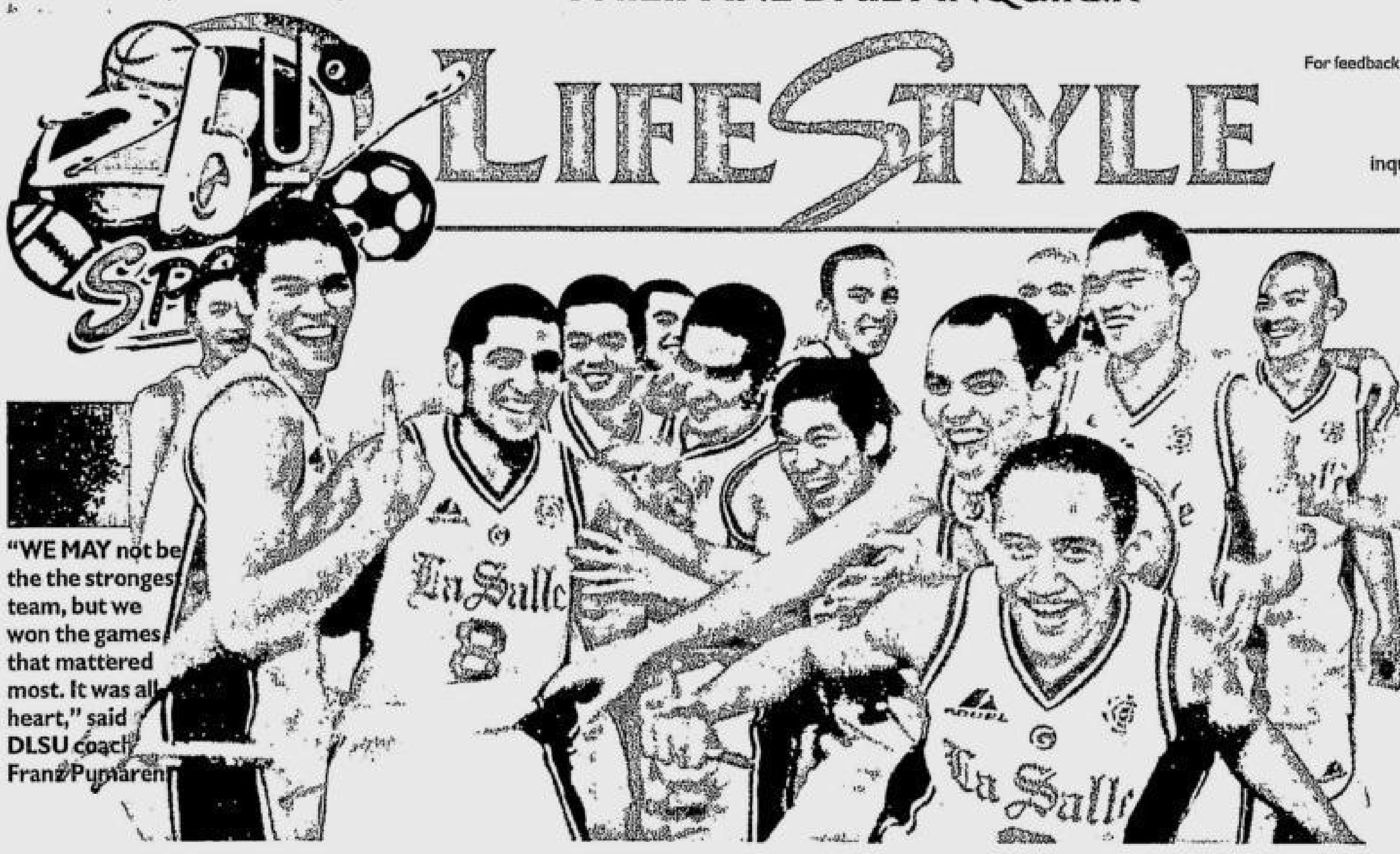

"WE MAY not be the the strongest team, but we won the games that mattered most. It was all heart," said DLSU coach Franz Pumaren

Champions once more

The 73-64 win in game two of the UAAP Men's Basketball not only gave the De La Salle Green Archers the top prize, but also made it clear that they were back

Text by Patrick Leonard M. Mayo
2BU! Correspondent
Photos by Ryan S. Lim

TWO WORDS THAT BEST describe the comeback season of the De La Salle Green Archers in the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) Men's Basketball scene this year: vindication and validation.

Vindication from the suspension they incurred last year that barred them from the tournament, and validation for once again attaining college basketball supremacy by routing a heavily favored University of the East Red Warriors squad in the finals.

Their monumental comeback began a year ago when they were immersed by their multititled coach, Franz Pumaren, in rigorous training and involvement in various pre-season and off-season tournaments, like the Nike Summer League and Fil-Oil/Flying-V Pre-season Tournament.

They finished champions in both contests, against powerhouse college basketball teams coming from the UAAP, NCAA and other collegiate associations across the country.

Before the start of the UAAP season, the Archers were one of the favorites to make it to the Final Four, if not the championship. But their road to the top turned out to be a roller-coaster ride.

First, they lost their blue chip Serbian rookie Marko Batricevic to an ACL knee injury during the Nike Summer League. And as the unpredictable season rolled, they began with a strong 3-0 start, setting the stage for a showdown with eventual finalists the UE Red Warriors who were also sporting a similar 3-0 card.

Touted as a preview of a potential finals match-up, the game was close in the first three quarters until the Recto-based cagers pulled away in the fourth, en route to a 96-76 thrashing of the Green Archers, giving La Salle its first defeat of the season.

Their next game was a highly anticipated one as they met their blood rivals, the Ateneo Blue Eagles, for the first time in two years. As predicted, the game was tightly contested up to the final buzzer, and when the smoke cleared, the Archers found themselves bowing to their nemesis, 77-80, for their second straight setback.

Finding themselves in the middle of the team standings, the Green Archers regrouped and won six of their next seven games to boost their Final Four bid for a twice-to-beat advantage to boot. But as the eliminations neared the climax, they once more dropped their last two games against the Blue Eagles and eventual finalists the Red Warriors.

Double loss

The Warriors would go on to bag an outright finals berth with their overtime win over the Green Archers, sweeping the double-round eliminations. Compounding their loss, the Archers' backup center, Brian Ilad, was slapped with a five-game suspension after throwing a punch at UE's forward Mark Fampulme during an altercation in the first half of their game.

The two losses gave the Archers a 9-5 win-loss card at the end of the elimination round, which set the stage for a three-game showdown against the Blue Eagles, who also sported a similar record. The Eagles were in high spirits after ousting last year's champions the UST Growling Tigers in their knockout match.

The initial match-up was a tie-breaker between the two squads, which La Salle won with the slimmest of margins, 70-69, to clinch the coveted twice-to-beat edge in the semis.

As if making up for the lost time, the rival squads met again in two grueling semifinal games, with the Loyola-based cagers stunning their rivals from Taft with a nail-biting 76-75 win, forcing a do-or-die rubber match for the right to meet UE in the Finals.

But hunger, execution and experience in pressure situations prevailed as the Green Archers repulsed the Blue Eagles for good, 65-60, to barge into the Finals.

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A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have and to hold

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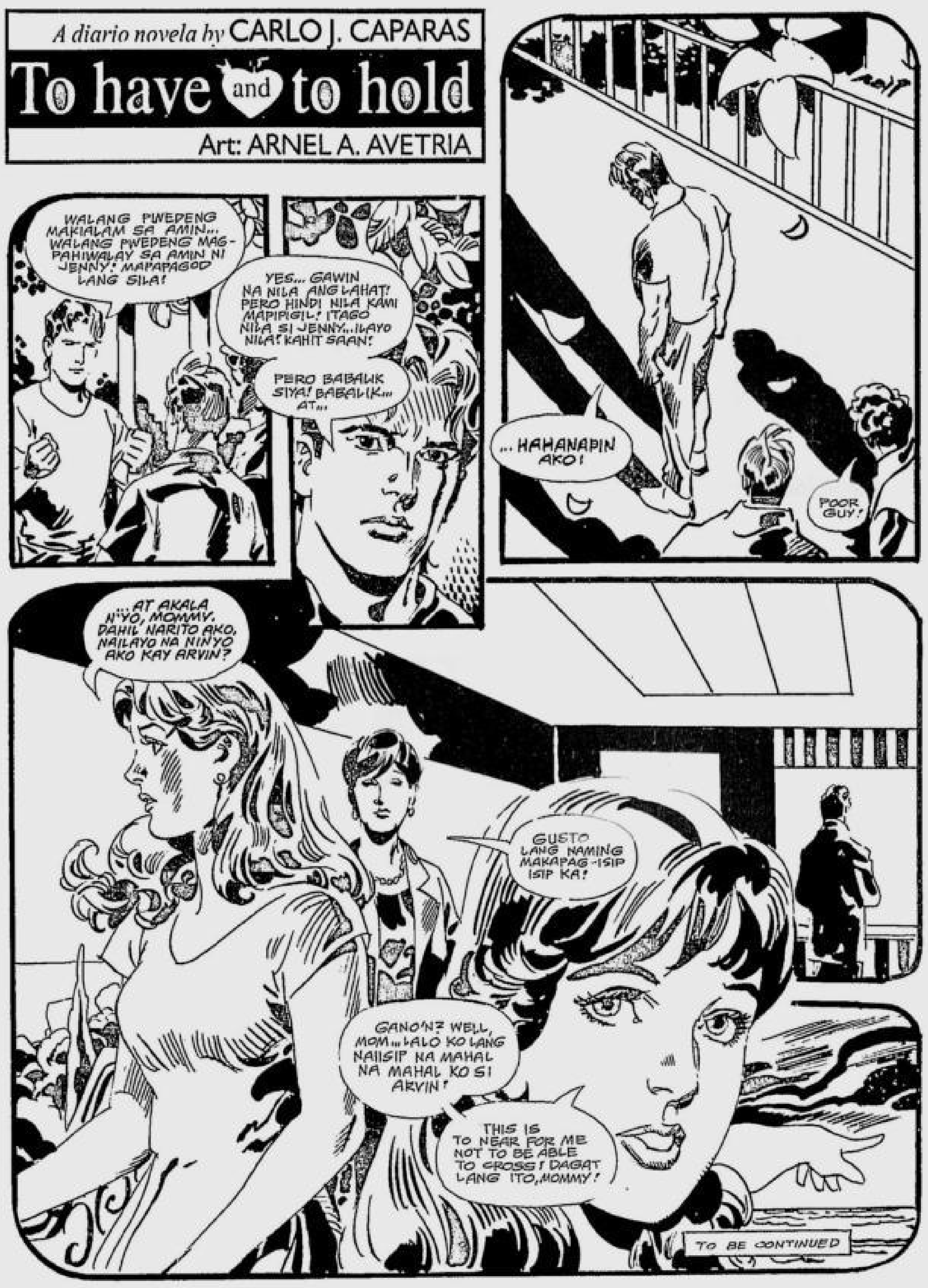
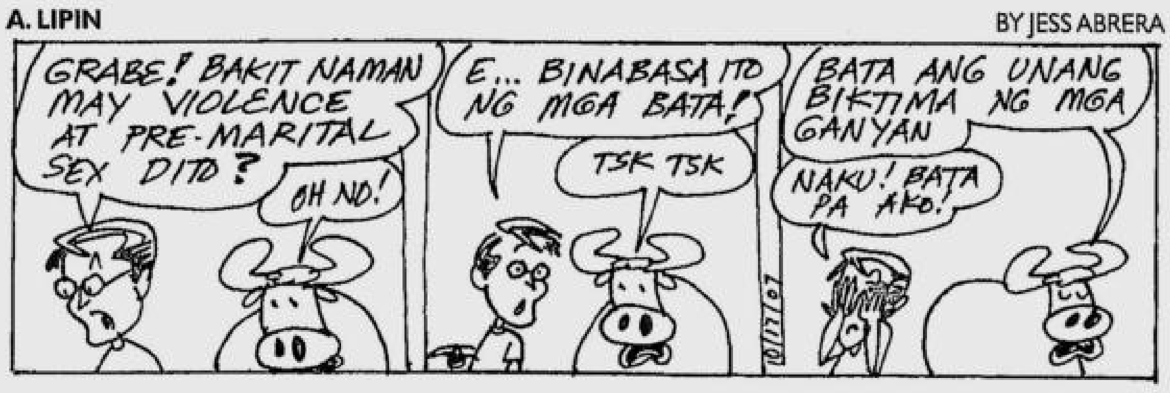

WALANG PWEDENG MAKIALAM SA AMIN... WALANG PWEDENG MAG-PAHIWALAY SA AMIN NI JENNY! MAPAPAGOD LANG SILA!
YES... GAWIN NA NILA ANG LAHAT! PERO HINDI NILA KAMI MAPIPIGIL! ITAGO NILA SI JENNY...ILAYO NILA! KAHIT SAAN!
PERO BABALIK SIYA! BABALIK... AT...
...HAHANAPIN AKO!
POOR GUY!
...AT AKALA N'YO, MOMMY, DAHIL NARITO AKO, NAILAYO NA NINYO AKO KAY ARVIN?
GUSTO LANG NAMING MAKAPAG-ISIP ISIP KA!
GANO'N? WELL, MOM... LALO KO LANG NAIISIP NA MAHAL NA MAHAL KO SI ARVIN!
THIS IS TO NEAR FOR ME NOT TO BE ABLE TO CROSS! DAGAT LANG ITO, MOMMY!
TO BE CONTINUED

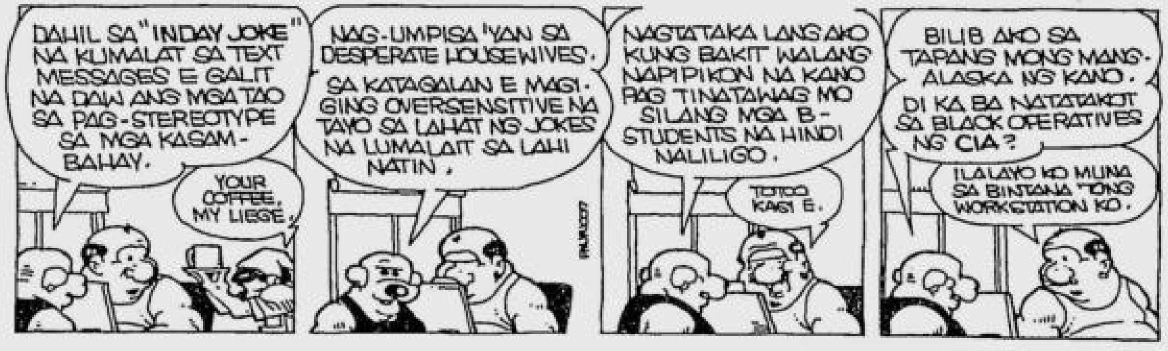
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


GRABE! BAKIT NAMAN MAY VIOLENCE AT PRE-MARITAL SEX DITO?
OH NO!
E... BINABASA ITO NG MGA BATA!
TSK TSK
BATA ANG UNANG BIKTIMA NG MGA GANYAN
NAKU! BATA PA AKO!

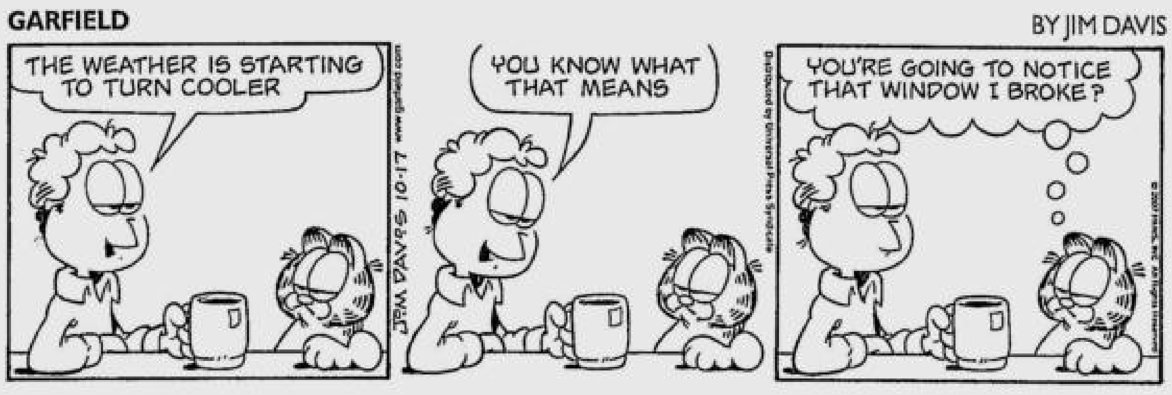
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


DAHIL SA "INDAY JOKE" NA KUMALAT SA TEXT MESSAGES E GALIT NA DAW ANG MGA TAO SA PAG-STEREOTYPE SA MGA KASAM-BAHAY.
YOUR COFFEE, MY LIEGE.
NAG-UMPISA 'YAN SA DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES.
SA KATAGALAN E MAGI-GING OVERSENSITIVE NA TAYO SA LAHAT NG JOKES NA LUMALAIT SA LAHI NATIN.
NAGTATAKA LANG AKO KUNG BAKIT WALANG NAPIPIKON NA KANO PAG TINATAWAG MO SILANG MGA B-STUDENTS NA HINDI NALILIGO.
TOTOO KASI E.
BILIB AKO SA TAPANG MONG MANG-ALASKA NG KANO.
DI KA BA NATATAKOT SA BLACK OPERATIVES NG CIA?
ILALAYO KO MUNA SA BINTANA 'TONG WORKSTATION KO.

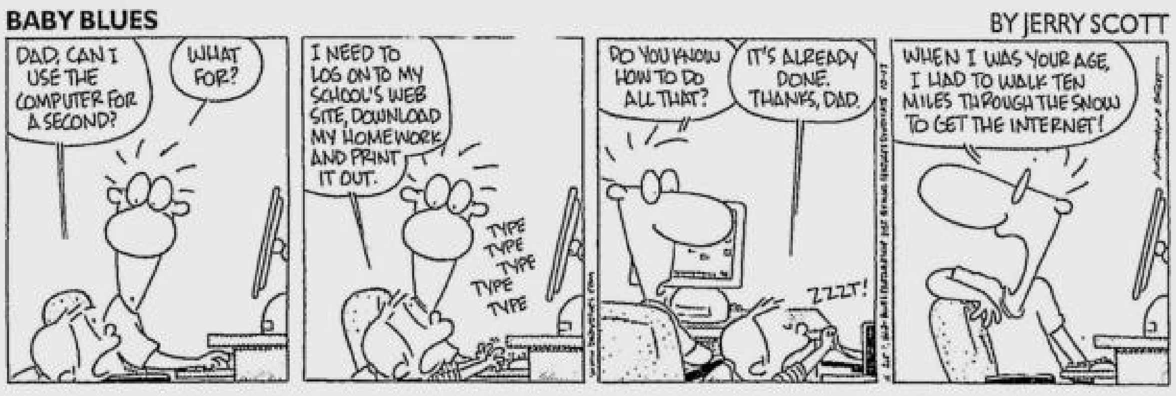
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


THE WEATHER IS STARTING TO TURN COOLER
JPM DAVPS 10-17
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS
YOU'RE GOING TO NOTICE THAT WINDOW I BROKE?

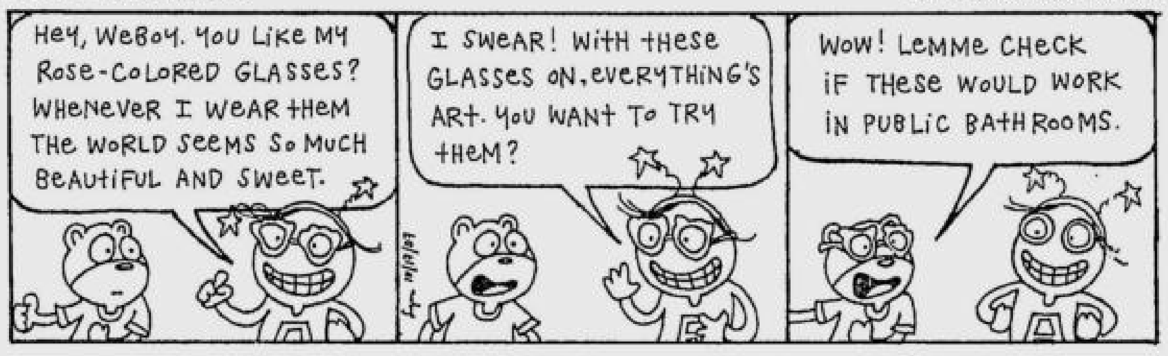
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


DAD, CAN I USE THE COMPUTER FOR A SECOND?
WHAT FOR?
I NEED TO LOG ON TO MY SCHOOL'S WEB SITE, DOWNLOAD MY HOMEWORK AND PRINT IT OUT.
TYPE TYPE TYPE TYPE TYPE
DO YOU KNOW HOW TO DO ALL THAT?
IT'S ALREADY DONE. THANKS, DAD.
ZZZT!
WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, I HAD TO WALK TEN MILES THROUGH THE SNOW TO GET THE INTERNET!

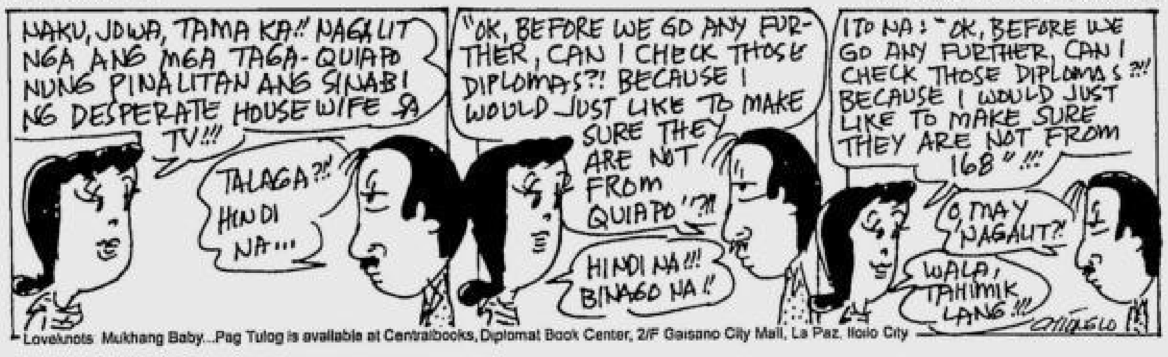
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, WeBoy. You Like My Rose-Colored GLASSes? Whenever I wear them The World Seems So Much Beautiful AND Sweet.
I SWEAR! With these GLASSES ON, EVERYTHING'S ART. You WANT To TRY THEM?
Wow! Lemme Check if These Would Work in Public Bathrooms.

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NAKU, JOWA, TAMA KA!! NAGALIT NGA ANG MGA TAGA-QUIAPO NUNG PINALITAN ANG SINABI NG DESPERATE HOUSEWIFE SA TV!!!
TALAGA?! HINDI NA...
"OK, BEFORE WE GO ANY FURTHER, CAN I CHECK THOSE DIPLOMAS?! BECAUSE I WOULD JUST LIKE TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE NOT FROM QUIAPO"?!!
HINDI NA!!! BINAGO NA!!
ITO NA: "OK, BEFORE WE GO ANY FURTHER, CAN I CHECK THOSE DIPLOMAS?! BECAUSE I WOULD JUST LIKE TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE NOT FROM 168"!!!
O, MAY NAGALIT?
WALA, TAHIMIK LANG!!!
CHIONGLO

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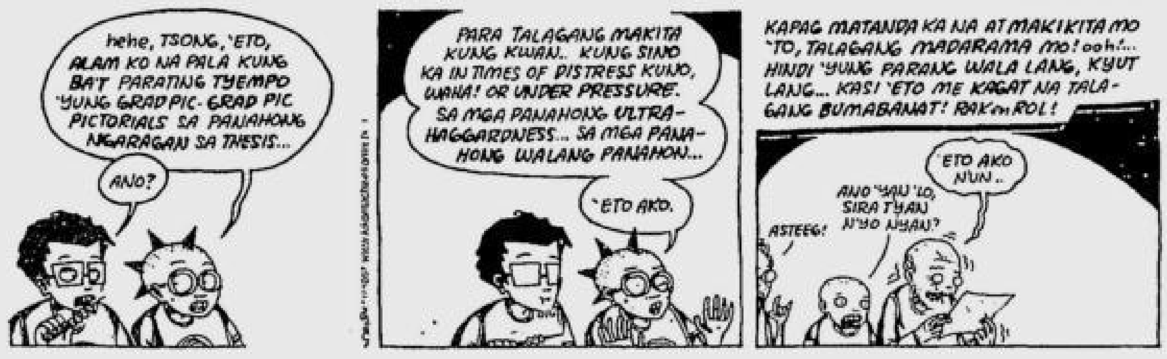
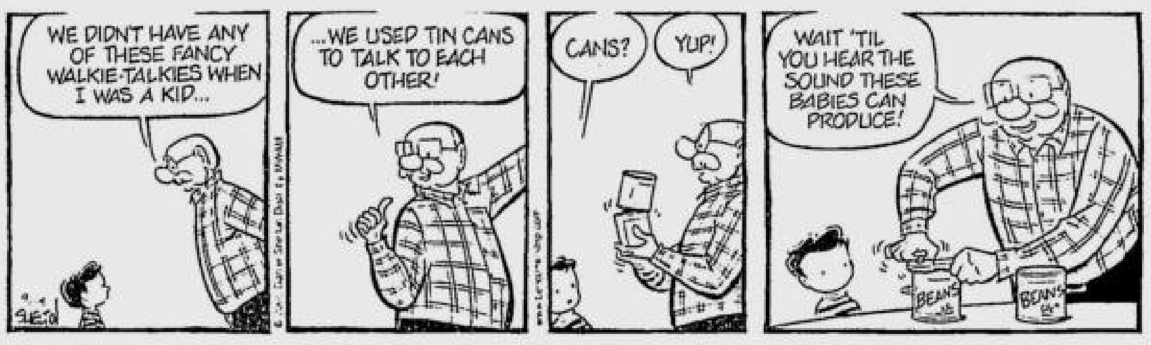
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


hehe, TSONG, 'ETO, ALAM KO NA PALA KUNG BAT PARATING TYEMPO 'YUNG GRADPIC-GRAD PIC PICTORIALS SA PANAHONG NGARAGAN SA THESIS...
ANO?
PARA TALAGANG MAKITA KUNG KUWAN.. KUNG SINO KA IN TIMES OF DISTRESS KUNO, WAHA! OR UNDER PRESSURE. SA MGA PANAHONG ULTRA-HAGGARDNESS... SA MGA PANAHONG WALANG PANAHON...
'ETO AKO.
KAPAG MATANDA KA NA AT MAKIKITA MO 'TO, TALAGANG MADARAMA MO! ooh!.. HINDI 'YUNG PARANG WALA LANG, KYUT LANG... KASI 'ETO ME KAGAT NA TALAGANG BUMABANAT! RAK en ROL!
ASTEEG!
ANO 'YAN 'LO, SIRA T'YAN N'YO NYAN?
'ETO AKO NUN..

BEN

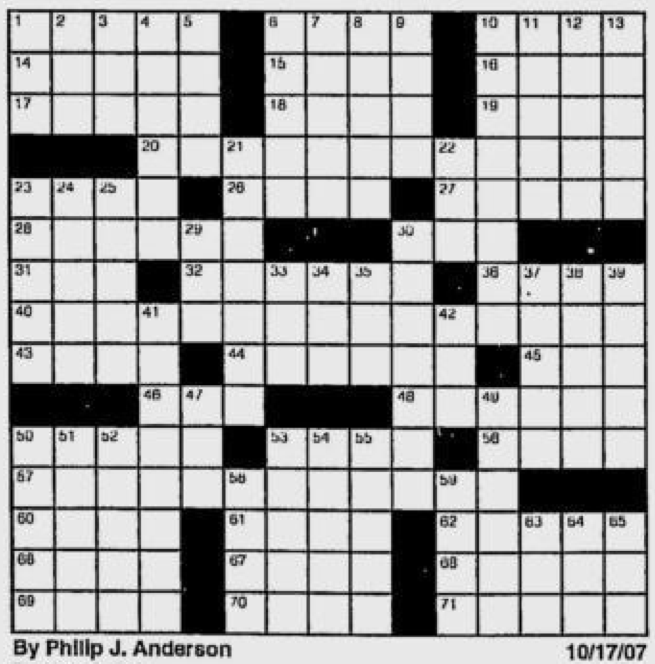
BY DANIEL SHELTON


WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY OF THESE FANCY WALKIE-TALKIES WHEN I WAS A KID...
...WE USED TIN CANS TO TALK TO EACH OTHER!
CANS?
YUP!
WAIT 'TIL YOU HEAR THE SOUND THESE BABIES CAN PRODUCE!
BEANS
BEANS

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Violent explosion
6 Shapely fruit
10 Dean Martin's detective Matt
14 Speed checker
15 Austen novel
16 Nobelist Wiesel
17 Muscat resident
18 Niagara noise
19 Cacophonies
20 Tough task for a chef
23 Tree house?
26 Manipulates
27 Fidgety
28 Primitive conveyance
30 Greek letter
31 Spanish river
32 Former French colony in Canada
36 Yemen's capital
40 Tough task for a taxidermist
43 Como ___ Usted?
44 Upolu resident
45 Japanese novelist Kobo
46 Director's shout
48 Large craft
50 Babysitter's nemeses
53 Berne's river
56 Morays
57 Tough task for a gourmet
60 Coup d'___
61 Attack with a shiv
62 Of service
66 Neighbor of Brazil
67 Foal's father
68 Potvin or Leary
69 Actor Pickens
70 Mining products
71 Kitchen appliance

DOWN
1 One sib
2 Fugitive's escape
3 Oklahoma city
4 Holy places
5 Small combo
6 Fringe benefits
7 Ham it up
8 Delhi nannies
9 Infrequent
10 Pleasure seeker
11 "Middlemarch" author
12 Chain elements
13 Disorderly
21 Pariah
22 ___-relief
23 Scandinavian
24 Leaves the building
25 Tonto's horse
29 Brit. flyboys
30 Idle chatter
33 Arab garment
34 Beavers' barrier
35 Worldwide worker's grp.
37 Humiliate
38 Dynamite inventor
39 Jumps on the ice
41 Do-all assistant
42 Noon follower
47 Mil. branch
49 Stanza of six lines
50 Pages
51 Honey badger
52 Arcade pioneer
53 Up and about
54 Cognizant
55 Judicial garb
58 Exxon, once
59 Clothing, casually
63 Daughter of Cadmus
64 Actress Ullmann
65 Compass dir.



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
10/17/07

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

A	L	K	A	■	H	A	R	E	M	■	E	G	O	S
C	E	O	S	■	A	R	U	B	A	■	V	A	N	S
M	A	R	C	■	R	I	L	E	Y	■	O	I	L	S
E	N	E	R	G	I	Z	E	R	B	U	N	N	Y	■
S	T	A	I	R	■	■	■	T	E	R	N	S	■	■
■	■	■	B	R	A	S	S	■	■	G	E	T	I	N
N	E	V	E	R	S	A	Y	D	I	E	■	I	C	I
E	N	I	D	■	T	I	N	A	S	■	T	M	E	N
A	N	C	■	H	A	N	G	I	N	T	H	E	R	E
P	E	T	T	Y	■	■	E	S	T	E	R	■	■	■
■	■	R	O	M	P	S	■	■	■	L	O	A	M	S
■	G	O	O	N	A	N	D	O	N	A	N	D	O	N
C	O	L	T	■	C	A	I	R	O	■	G	I	N	A
C	O	A	L	■	E	R	R	E	D	■	E	E	O	C
I	P	S	E	■	R	E	E	S	E	■	D	U	S	K

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10/17/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're confident and daring. You have amazing resilience. No matter what happens, you surmount the obstacles presented to you. You're attracted to challenges, even danger. You know how to incorporate the ideas of others and present them in your own, original style. In the year ahead, something you've been involved with for about nine years will diminish or end to make room for something new.

Birthdate of: Jimmy Breslin, writer; Margot Kidder, actress; Rick Mercer, comedian.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You're very convincing today. This is why today is a good day to discuss how you want to share things with others. You'll probably get your way!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Partners and close friends might be more than you can handle today. It's not that they're unpleasant, they're just so enthusiastic! (It's a bit over-the-top.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You can count on getting a lot done at work today. Your mind is alive and bright. You'll be able to multitask successfully! (You've got four arms today.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Playful activities appeal to you today. Sports, fun times with children, romance, vacations and little adventures are fun choices. Enjoy!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You've got the energy to make improvements at home today. Family discussions also can be productive. You're full of ideas about how to make things better!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): What a busy day! Short trips, errands, discussions with siblings and relatives, plus shopping, buying and selling, and just running around in general keeps your hands full.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You're full of moneymaking ideas today! You might want to write some of them down. Any kind of discussion about money, cash flow and how to earn money (or spend it) interests you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Today Mercury is in your sign, getting a boost of energy from Mars. Yikes! This makes you decisive, assertive and vigorously conversational. (Oh, my.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You'll find whatever answer you seek or whatever you're looking for, because today your research skills are hot! Nothing is too much trouble.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a good time to sign up for a course, go back to school or take up anything where you can learn something new. You also might want to make travel plans. You need to expand your mind!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Be careful. You're coming on so strong that you might appear threatening to your boss or even a parent or teacher. Think before you speak. (You're very confident and ambitious today.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Travel plans, educational matters, foreign countries and different cultures, plus publishing, the media, medicine and the law are all important areas today. You can't leave them alone!

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu

By Dave Green

			3	9	4			
		8			5			
	5			7				
4				2				
1				5			6	7
2					6	9		8
	7							2
		4					1	
			1	4	7	8		

Difficulty Level ★★★
10/17

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

5	2	8	6	1	3	7	9	4
3	1	7	4	9	5	2	8	6
6	4	9	7	2	8	3	5	1
8	5	1	3	7	4	9	6	2
9	7	6	5	8	2	4	1	3
2	3	4	9	6	1	8	7	5
7	8	5	2	4	6	1	3	9
1	6	2	8	3	9	5	4	7
4	9	3	1	5	7	6	2	8

Difficulty Level ★★

Name: Tyrone Tang
Age: 23
Birthday: Sept. 25, 1984
Jersey number: 11
Team position: Point guard
Favorite Season 70 moment: Winning the championship.
Most important thing your coach taught you: Face the challenge and never give up.
Basketball idol: Steve Nash
Taken or available: Taken
What makes a champion team: Warriors that have big hearts and a brotherhood that keeps the team together.

Name: Joseph Evans D. Casio
Age: 21
Birthday: Sept. 1, 1986
Jersey number: 6
Team position: Point guard/shooting guard
Favorite Season 70 moment: Winning the championship.
Most important thing your coach taught you: If you commit a mistake, a missed shot or a turnover, as long as you hustle, you can recover.
Basketball idol: Michael Jordan
Taken or available: Taken
What makes a champion team: Brotherhood. Offense wins games, defense wins championships.

Name: Paul Rico Maierhofer
Age: 21
Birthday: Nov. 4, 1985
Jersey number: 10
Team position: Small forward/power forward
Favorite Season 70 moment: Game number two of the finals.
Most important thing your coach taught you: No pain, no gain.
Basketball idol: Tracy McGrady and Michael Jordan
Taken or available: Taken
Hidden talents: Dancing
What makes a champion team: Guts and will.

Name: Pocholo Iñigo A. Villanueva
Age: 24
Birthday: Nov. 24, 1982
Jersey number: 9
Team position: guard
Favorite Season 70 moment: The championship
Most important thing your coach taught you: Becoming a student-athlete. This means that being a student comes first.
Basketball idol: Michael Jordan
Taken or available: Taken
Hidden talents: Singing
What makes a champion team: Defense, hard work, determination and trust in the Lord.

Name: Arthur Peter John Walsham
Age: 23
Birthday: April 1, 1984
Jersey number: 5
Team position: Center
Favorite Season 70 Moment: Beating Ateneo and winning the championship.
Most important thing your coach taught you: To be able to face my fears and pressure.
Basketball idol: Dirk Nowitzki and Ben Wallace
Taken or available?: Available
Hidden talents: Signing and playing the guitar
What makes a champion team: 15 men determined and bonded as one.

Name: Kish Grover L. Co
Age: 19
Birthday: May 26, 1988
Jersey number: 12
Team position: Power forward
Favorite Season 70 moment: Winning the championship
Most important thing your coach taught you: Just like in basketball, in life you should not allow anyone to bully you or push you around.
Basketball idol: Tim Duncan
Taken or available: Taken
Hidden talents: "Studious"
What makes a champion team: Skills, heart, hard work and camaraderie.

Name: Bader Malabes
Age: 20
Birthday: Aug. 11, 1987
Jersey number: 8
Team position: Shooting guard
Favorite Season 70 moment: Beating Ateneo and winning the championship
Most important thing your coach taught you: As long as we work as a team, we can do anything.
Basketball idol: Kobe Bryant
Taken or available: Taken
What makes a champion team: Trusting each other inside and outside the court.

Champions once more

From page D1

Twists and angles

The final games were full of twists and angles that added color to the match-ups. It was the first time coach Franz Pumaren went against his younger brother Dindo Pumaren in a UAAP Finals. Dindo was guiding the Red Warriors to a historic 14-0 sweep of the eliminations and their first finals appearance in 17 years.

Thus, it was like a mirror-image, in the sense that both squads had mastered the vaunted full-court press; it was the two pre-season favorites going against each other in what some TV commentators dubbed Christmas in October because of the colors the schools represented.

Game one was fought tooth and nail, with both squads exchanging runs. The seemingly invincible Red Warriors dominated the boards, outrebounding the Green Archers 57-31. But the squad in green compensated by giving UE a taste of La Salle's pressure defense and forcing them to a season-high 30 turnovers.

And with the game tied in the dying seconds, Green Archer forward Rico Maierhofer sank one of two freethrows after being fouled to give UE its first taste of defeat and La Salle a 64-63 victory and a 1-0 advantage in the best-of-three finals.

In game two, UE pounced on the Archers early in the first quarter until the Green Archers tightened their defense and took control of the ball game until the final quarter. Steadiness in the free-throw line, and clutch baskets from co-Finals MVPs JV Casio and Cholo Villanueva who was in his final tour of duty, stopped a comeback from the Red Warriors and sealed the deal for the Green Archers.

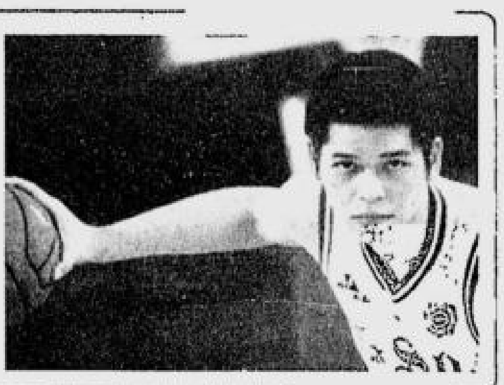
The 73-64 win in game two not only gave the De La Salle Green Archers the championship, but also made a resounding statement that they were really back.

Asked what the formula was for their return to glory, the players said, "it was the championship experience, the heart, trusting each other and brotherhood that did it."

MANY THANKS TO TEAM MANAGERS
DAVE DICHUPA AND TERRY CAPISTRANO

Name: Simon David Atkins
Age: 19
Birthday: July 19, 1988
Jersey number: 7
Team position: Point guard
Favorite Season 70 moment: When I scored five straight points during the Ateneo-La Salle game.
Most important thing your coach taught you: To value education.
Basketball idol: JV Casio, Ty Tang, Cholo Villanueva and Chauncey Billups
Taken or available: Taken
What makes a champion team: Great friends who trust each other and each others' abilities and talents.

Name: Ferdinand
Age: 19
Birthday: April 15, 1988
Jersey number: 18
Team position: center
Favorite Season 70 moment: Beating Ateneo and dunking against Adamson
Most important thing your coach taught you: Give your all once you're inside the court.
Basketball idol: Vince Carter
Taken or available: Taken
Hidden talents: Swimming and badminton
What makes a champion team: Brotherhood and having a heart of a champion.



Name: Oliver John A. Cua
Age: 22
Birthday: August 24, 1985
Jersey number: 16
Team position: Small forward
Favorite Season 70 moment: Winning the championship
Most important thing your coach taught you: *Lahat ng akala, mali.*
Basketball idol: Michael Jordan
Taken or available: Available
Hidden talents: Driving
What makes a champion team: Teamwork, defense and most of all, brotherhood.

Name: James Philip Mangahas
Age: 21
Birthday: Oct. 8, 1986
Jersey number: 19
Team position: Forward
Favorite Season 70 moment: Beating the Blue Eagles
Most important thing your coach taught you: Be aggressive.
Basketball idol: Kenneth Duremdes
Taken or available: Taken
What makes a champion team: Teamwork is the secret formula.

Name: Peejay Barua
Age: 19
Birthday: Dec. 20, 1987
Jersey number: 17
Team position: Shooting guard
Favorite Season 70 moment: Beating Ateneo.
Most important thing your coach taught you: Give your 100 percent on the court.
Basketball idol: Kobe Bryant
Taken or available: Available
Hidden talents: Dancing
What makes a champion team: Teamwork.

Name: Rejan Lee
Age: 20
Birthday: Jan. 25, 1987
Jersey number: 21
Team position: Guard
Favorite Season 70 moment: Championship. The very moment the final buzzer sounded.
Most important thing your coach taught you: To always play as a team and out our egos aside.
Basketball idol: Michael Jordan
Taken or available: Available
Hidden talents: It's for you to find out.
What makes a champion team: Defense, hard work and trust.

Name: Marko Batricevic
Age: 21
Birthday: April 16, 1986
Jersey number: 20
Team position: Center/Power forward
Favorite Season 70 moment: Winning the championship.
Most important thing your coach taught you: To never back down and play with pride.
Basketball idol: Peja Stojakovic
Taken or available: Taken
Hidden talents: Table tennis
What makes a champion team: Unity and good chemistry.

Name: Brian Ilad
Age: 22
Birthday: June 13, 1985
Jersey number: 15
Team position: Center
Favorite Season 70 moment: Beating UST and Ateneo.
Most important thing your coach taught you: To never give up.
Basketball idol: Carmelo Anthony
Taken or available: Taken
Hidden talents: swimming
What makes a champion team: "Never say die" attitude.

100 balls in the basket

From page D4

47. Expect the revival of Steve Francis' career.

48. I can just imagine Rick Adelman rubbing this upcoming season in the faces of the Maloof Brothers, the owners of his previous team, the Kings. "You could have had this last season but you fired me for that DUI guy!"

49. Luis Scola: Walking double-double.

50. "Yes, Chicago, you could have kept Tyson Chandler, but you didn't."

51. And you know what? Melvin Ely ain't so bad either.

52. Chris Paul is probably so tired of hearing people proclaim Deron Williams was the better draft pick that he's about ready to explode.

53. Everyone forgets that Memphis was great two seasons ago. They will be great again this year.

54. Darko is free! Darko is freeeeeee!

55. You'd think that Utah would stop drafting players by now that didn't fit in Jerry Sloan's system (Kirilenko, Brewer, Miles).

56. AK away! All that's left is for the Jazz to find the best offer.

57. Chuckie Atkins > Steve Blake

58. Nene > Kenyon Martin

59. Another 70+ games for Marcus Camby? Perhaps he's finally over that injury hump.

60. Expect the revival of Channing Frye's (albeit short) career.

61. Is Darius Miles a secret weapon or trade bait? The latter, in my opinion.

62. Once again, Al Jefferson: the best player on the worst team.

63. Randy Foye is all hype.

64. Look for the coaching carousel to continue to spin in Minnesota.

65. The next team to adopt a Phoenix-style offense? The Supersonics, who will still be on the outside looking in when the playoffs roll around.

66. Robert Swift will be good. And he'll be better with Kurt Thomas tutoring him.

67. I'm so confident in Brian Skinner's ability to defend Tim Duncan that... Actually, I'm just slipping on my own sarcasm.

68. This really is the beginning of the end of Steve Nash, isn't it? I mean, he won't break down this season, but next season is when the Suns fans should start getting scared.

69. Kobe will pout quietly throughout the season, but look for at least a post-game tirade if they don't make the playoffs. A big tirade, mind you.

70. Nobody is walking through the door of the Lakers office. Not Jason Kidd, not Jermaine O'Neal, nobody.

71. Everyone talks about Andrew Bynum needing to step up but Ronny Turiaf will be the one to spark the Lakers.

72. The Golden State Warriors will out-Phoenix the Phoenix Suns.

73. Marco Belinelli is legit. So is Kelenna Azubuike.

74. That $10-million trade exception sure is burning a hole in the pocket of Chris Mullin.

75. What is the point of rushing Elton Brand back? They might as well try to land the projected top pick of next year's draft, OJ Mayo, who is a point guard.

76. You know, the position that is going to be vacant when Sam Cassell decides he wants to end his career on a winning team?

77. Of course, when Sacramento trades Mike Bibby away, they're going to want to draft Mayo as well.

78. That PF/C jam the Kings have is going to be solved with a trade and/or a buyout. Anything to get Justin Williams and Spencer Hawes more minutes together.

79. Marc Iavaroni will be Coach of the Year.

80. Kevin Durant will be Rookie of the Year.

81. If he stays healthy, Yao Ming will be MVP, thanks to the addition of a superb passing game in Rick Adelman's system.

82. The bottom three: Sacramento, Minnesota, Indiana

83. That Portland versus San Antonio season-opening game sure looks awful now.

84. First week upset: Indiana at home, over a Wade-less Miami Heat on Nov. 2.

85. All Star Weekend in New Orleans: Much adieu about nothing.

86. PJ Brown took a page out of Roger Clemens' book, deciding to sign sometime in November or December.

87. This might be the year that Paul Silas will get hired again as head coach.

88. Can't say the same thing for Mike Fratello and Larry Brown.

89. I can't wait to see Shaquille O'Neal retire. Biggest party South Beach has ever seen. And he's single, too!

90. Greg Oden will play at least one game of the Portland Trailblazers' season.

91. Danny Ainge will be Executive of the Year, and deservedly.

92. Chris Andersen will be the first player to come back from a drug suspension to play in the NBA.

93. San Antonio (1) over Memphis (8); Golden State (7) over Dallas (2); Phoenix (3) over Denver (6); Houston (5) over Utah (4)

94. Chicago (1) over New Jersey (8); Detroit (2) over Orlando (7); Cleveland (6) over Toronto (3); Boston (5) over Washington (4)

95. San Antonio (1) over Houston (5); Phoenix (3) over Golden State (7)

96. Chicago (1) over Boston (5); Detroit (6) over Cleveland (2)

97. San Antonio (1) over Phoenix (3) in the Western Conference Finals

98. Chicago (1) over Detroit (6) in the Eastern Conference Finals

99. San Antonio repeats for the first time and wins the NBA Championship again.

100. Robert Horry, Michael Finley, and Bruce Bowen will all retire happy and content.

100 balls in the basket

Let's see if at least half of my predictions here hit their mark

By Adrian M. Dy
2bU! Correspondent

SO WHAT'S GOING TO HAPpen in the upcoming NBA season? Read on and find out. Just give me license to gloat when it turns out I'm right, and space to make excuses when I'm wrong.

1. How good do I think the Boston Celtics are going to be? They're this year's Toronto Raptors, improving on last season's record by 20 or more games to easily wind up with a .500 or better record.

2. Danny Ainge will turn the non-guaranteed contracts of Esteban Batista (21 points, 12 rebounds in the Fiba Americas tournament) and Dahntay Jones into guaranteed ones, giving Boston a killer 10-man rotation (Batista, Posey, Jones, House and Tony Allen).

3. Sure, everyone is saying that one injury will derail this entire train, but you could say that about any team that loses one of its star players. The injuries to Paul Pierce and Ray Allen last season were obviously exaggerated to give their teams a better chance at the Greg Oden sweepstakes.

4. The New York Knicks are going to be so messed up (wouldn't you be messed up if your boss was sued for sexual harassment?) that they're going to get worse, not better.

5. And Isiah Thomas is going to be so desperate to keep his job that he will pull the trigger on some harebrained trade that will add another gazillion dollars to his payroll.

6. Lost in the shuffle will be David Lee, who is so desperate for playing time that he's willing to drop down to the small-forward position. All Knicks fans can do is shake their heads and pray he gets inserted into the starting lineup (which won't happen).

7. Is Philly the new Boston? Tons of young talent surround Andre Iguodala but they're all several years off. Too bad life isn't like NBA Live; we can't simulate forward until players like Thaddeus Young and Jason Smith are legit stars.

8. Swapping Mikki Moore for Jamal Magloire isn't a step forward, but a shuffle sideways.

9. If Nenad Kristic can play as well as he did before his injury, that would be a step forward.

10. Toronto stopped being the Phoenix Suns of the Eastern Conference midway through last season, but odds are they're going to try to do that again in 2007-08.

11. Sam Mitchell will have all season to dispel the naysayers who said he was out of his league in the playoffs after being awarded "Coach of the Year." Step up he will.

12. Very quietly, the Detroit Pistons have added depth and youth to their team. So goodbye and thanks for the effort, Chris Webber. Hope Dallas is desperate enough for you.

13. I have already heard whispers that have Lindsay Hunter taking over as head coach for Flip Saunders if the Pistons implode in the playoffs again. Do you hear them, too?

14. King James + Improved Jump Shot = Just *this* close to unguardable.

15. Which means "Hack-the-King" and triple teams will be a common sight in Cavaliers games.

16. Mike Bibby isn't walking through that door though, Cleveland. It's gonna be either Varejao or Pavlovic, and shame on you, Danny Ferry!

17. In retrospect, all those 2005 free-agent signings (Larry Hughes, Damon Jones, Donyell Marshal) were horrible ideas.

18. Tyrus Thomas will get the starting PF job in Chicago.

19. Tyrus Thomas will not keep the starting PF job, though.

20. Tyrus Thomas + Joakim Noah = "Boy is it fun to watch the Chicago Bulls."

21. Secret post presence? His name is Aaron Gray.

22. Is there any team out there that thinks getting Ben Wallace will push their team over the top? The Bulls will gladly take your offer and are willing to go as low as 40 cents to the dollar for expiring contracts.

23. So long, Chris Duhon. Hello, Jameson Curry.

24. Indiana's going to drop all the way from the ninth spot in the East to the cellar.

25. How much longer until this becomes Ike Diogu and Danny Granger's team? Not too far off.

26. Does Jim O'Brien realize that no one on this team can reliably hit a three-pointer? And no, Kareem Rush doesn't count.

27. Yi Jianlian is going to flip-flop so many times between "great player" and "crappy player" that it'll be ridiculous.

28. Time for a healthy Michael Redd to return the Milwaukee Bucks to relevancy.

29. Mark my words: No Miami Heat in the post-season.

30. Wouldn't you want to end your career on a better team Zozo?

31. Surely you're not one of those people who believe that the Penny-Shaq reunion will amount to anything, right?

32. Why is everyone writing Washington off, when like Detroit, they got younger and deeper?

33. And Agent Zero is in a contract year! He is going to be phenomenal and then he'll blog about being so darn phenomenal after each game.

34. The Wizards' conundrum: deal with Antwan Jamison's expiring contract before the trade deadline or after it? I say after it.

35. Stan Van Gundy's much better than Billy Donovan anyway.

36. I think it would shock the world if JJ Redick had a better year than Jameer Nelson. World, prepare to be shocked.

37. Tony Battie is going to be out for the year, which means it's time for Adonal Foyle to put up career numbers.

38. As Sean May goes, so go the Bobcats. Wait, he's out already? Then they are not a playoff team.

39. Between Kwame Brown and Adam Morrison, I think we can safely conclude that MJ doesn't know the first thing about drafting players.

40. I really want Atlanta to be successful. I think I'll have to wait another year, though.

41. Even if the Mavs do sign Chris Webber, he just doesn't fit the Dallas offense.

42. 60+ wins again? Very doable. If Josh Howard stays healthy, that is, and doesn't miss another 12 games.

43. Ime Udoka is the second coming of Bruce Bowen. Just what the Spurs needs.

44. Unfortunately, Matt Bonner is not the second coming of Robert Horry. That would be the guy they sent over to the Rockets for essentially nothing.

45. Duncan will still be Duncan, thank god.

46. This is going to jinx it, but I honestly believe that this is the year where everyone will stay relatively healthy in Houston.

100/D3

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

'Smart) or email us at entertainment@inquirer.com.ph **Website:** www.inquirer.net/entertainment

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6
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MAKISIG

HERMIE Esguerra and Jake Maderazo in front of the OB van

Makisig TV, for men

By Marinel R. Cruz

WHEN NEWS FIRST BROKE that the local horseracing channel on cable TV was going off the air, aficionados panicked.

But a group of horserace owners led by Hermie Esguerra took over the racing channel (76 on Sky and Home cable providers, 80 on Destiny Cable) to ensure continued coverage.

To the rescue thus came Makisig Network, the first Filipino male-oriented channel. It had its first broadcast yesterday.

Esguerra said Makisig's main goal was to upgrade the quality of horse racing coverage.

"We want to position horseracing as an entertainment sport, not as a form of gambling," added Esguerra, chair and CEO.

Esguerra is also the owner of Wind Blown, the highest-priced, most famous and most-awarded horse in Philippine racing history, according to INQUIRER columnist Manolo Iñigo.

MAKISIG TV/ E2

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3 (DOLBY) KNOCKED UP
4 (DOLBY) MR. WOODCOCK

PREMIERE
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1 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
2 HIGHLANDER -V
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 KNOCKED UP

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3 KNOCKED UP
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5

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4 KUNG FU FIGHTER

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3 LAST LEGION

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Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 RISE
3 RESERVED
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2 (DOLBY) RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
4 (GOLD DTS) NO RESERVATIONS
5 (GOLD DOLBY) HIGHLANDER -V
6 (GOLD DOLBY) STURDUST
7 (GOLD DOLBY) KNOCKED UP
8 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
9 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
10 KUNG FU FIGHTER

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1 (DOLBY) APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
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3 (DOLBY) STURDUST
4 (DOLBY) KUNG FU FIGHTER

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1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
5 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING

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2 HIGHLANDER
3 MR. WOODCOCK

Center Mall Cinema
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1 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING

Jade Cinema
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1 KNOCKED UP
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
4 RESIDENT EVIL

Centre Plaza Cinema
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1 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
2 UNDERDOG

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2 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
3 (DOLBY) STURDUST
4 (DOLBY) MR WOODCOCK

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2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
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2 RESERVED
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1 I KNOW WHO KILL ME
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2 HOST
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 THE BRAVE ONE

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2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 I KNOW WHO KILL ME

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 DAY WATCH
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT

Lianas Cinema
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1 PLEASE CALL
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Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 PLEASE CALL
2 TAYO LANG SA LANGIT
3 PLEASE CALL
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Lianas MovieCity
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1 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
2 TAYO LANG SA LANGIT
3 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
4 RESIDENT EVIL
5 THREE

Fiesta World Mall
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1 NO RESERVATION
2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 HOST
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Berma Cinema
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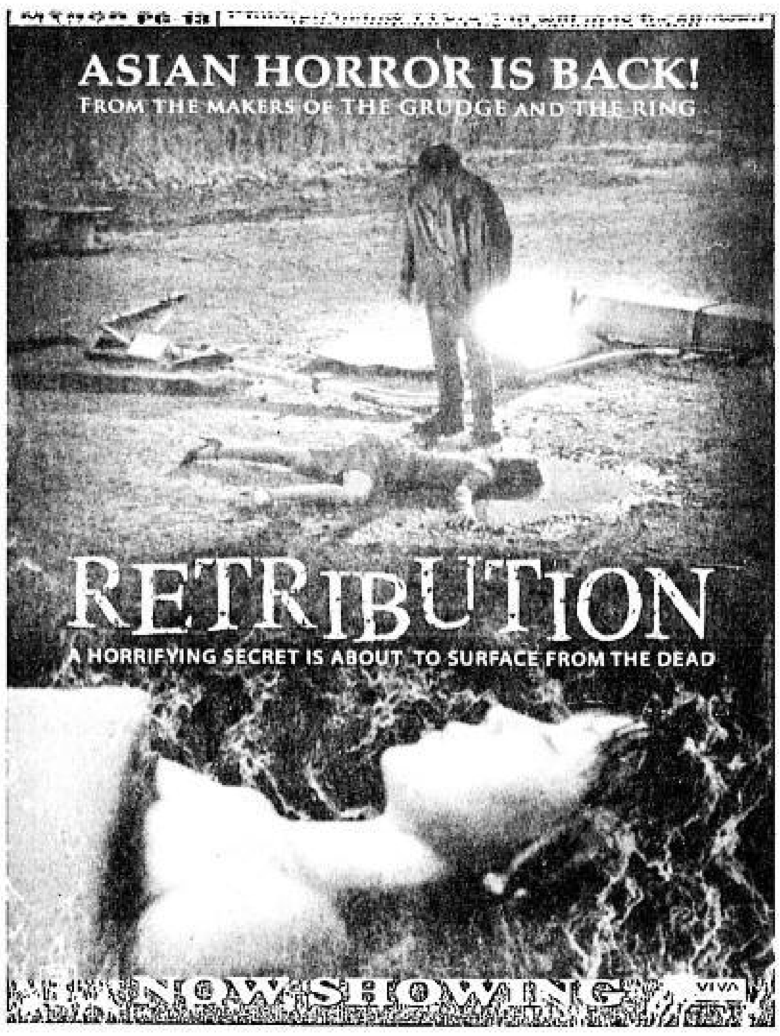
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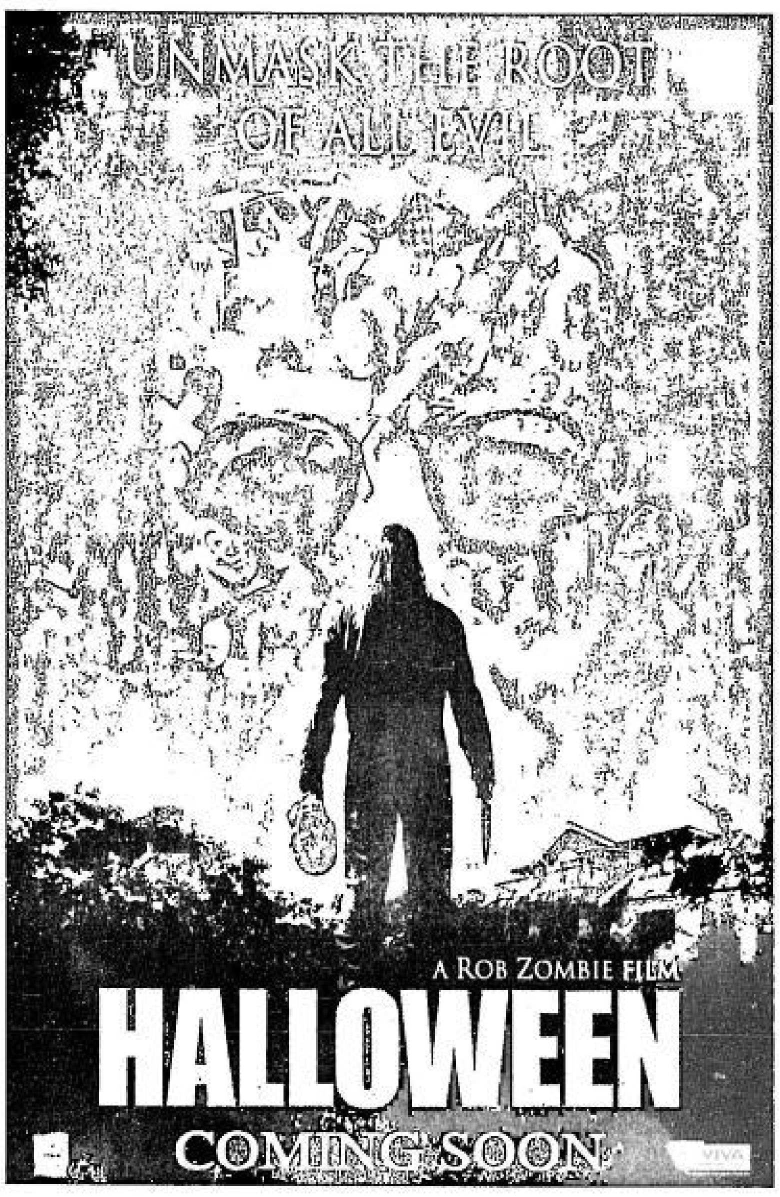
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A ROB ZOMBIE FILM
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COMING SOON
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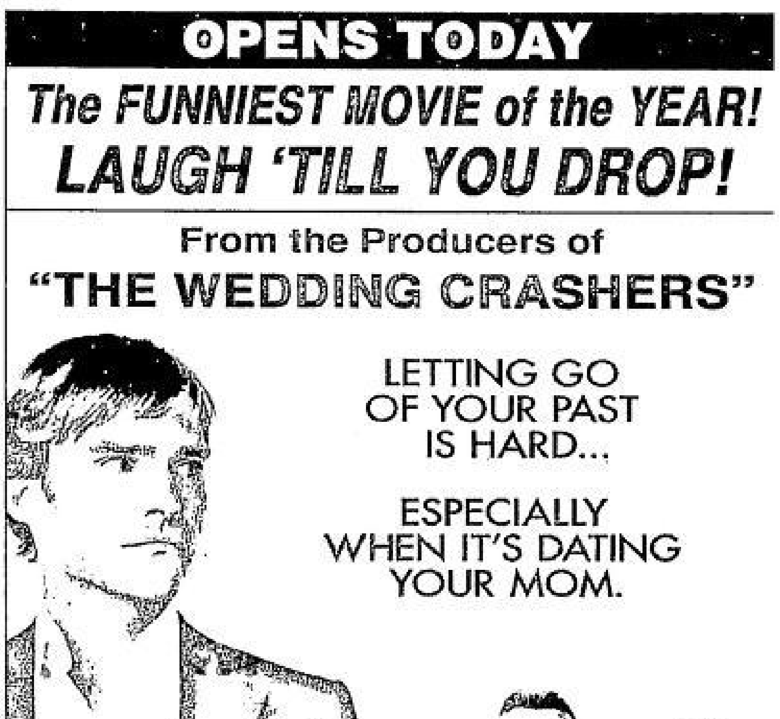
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ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S DATING YOUR MOM.
CORN COB QUEEN 1970
SEANN WILLIAM SCOTT
BILLY BOB THORNTON
AND SUSAN SARANDON
MR. WOODCOCK

Makisig TV, for men

From page E1

"Viewers will learn all about breeding, horse lineage, as well as relationships between horses and jockeys, horses and trainers, horses and horse owners," Esguerra said.

Jake Maderazo, Makisig president and veteran broadcaster—and also a horse race owner—noted that the network will also devote programs to other male interests like business, gaming, entertainment, health and fitness, parenting, relationships, travel and lifestyle.

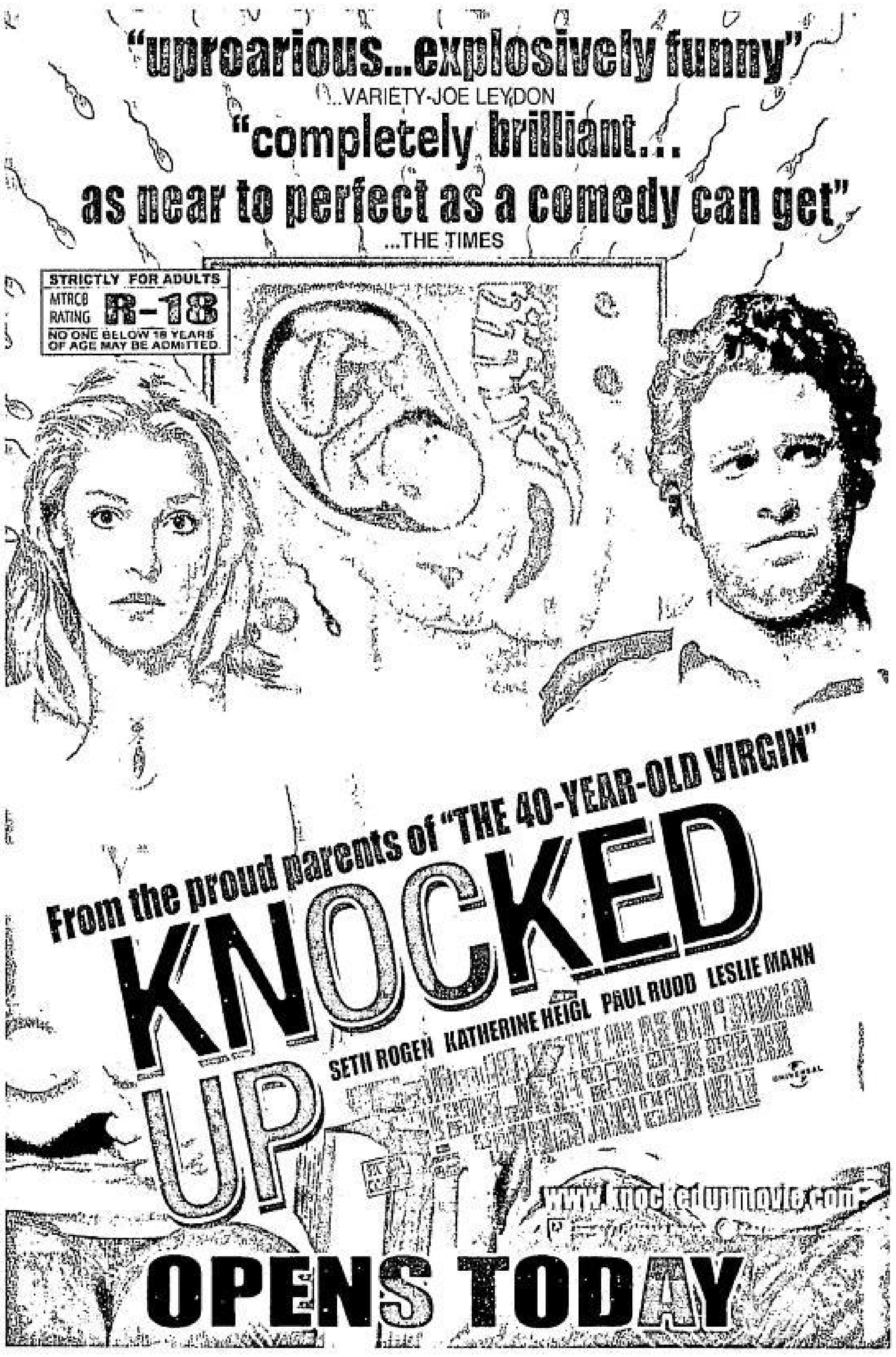
"The shows will be informative and therapeutic," said Maderazo.

In "At Your Pleasure," host Nancy Castiglione talks about cars, bikes, drinking, toys, gadgets, even women and gambling.

Men will speak their mind on sexuality, spirituality, hobbies and interests in Ariel Ureta's "Man To Man Talk."

"Macho Gwapito," hosted by Rico J. Puno, is an hour-long musical show. Tim Tayag's "Menpower" reports on subjects of interest to men as tackled in current men's magazines.

There are also specialized shows: Monsour del Rosario's "Fit and Fast with Monsour," about martial arts; Dominic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Roger Ebert, CHICAGO SUN TIMES
"SENSUOUS."
Lisa Schwarzbaum, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R-18)
Constantin Film
DREAMWORKS PICTURES
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glorietta
GREENBELT

Ochoa's "Mad About Wheels," for car lovers; and INQUIRER food columnist Reggie Espiras' "Venus Cooks for Mars."

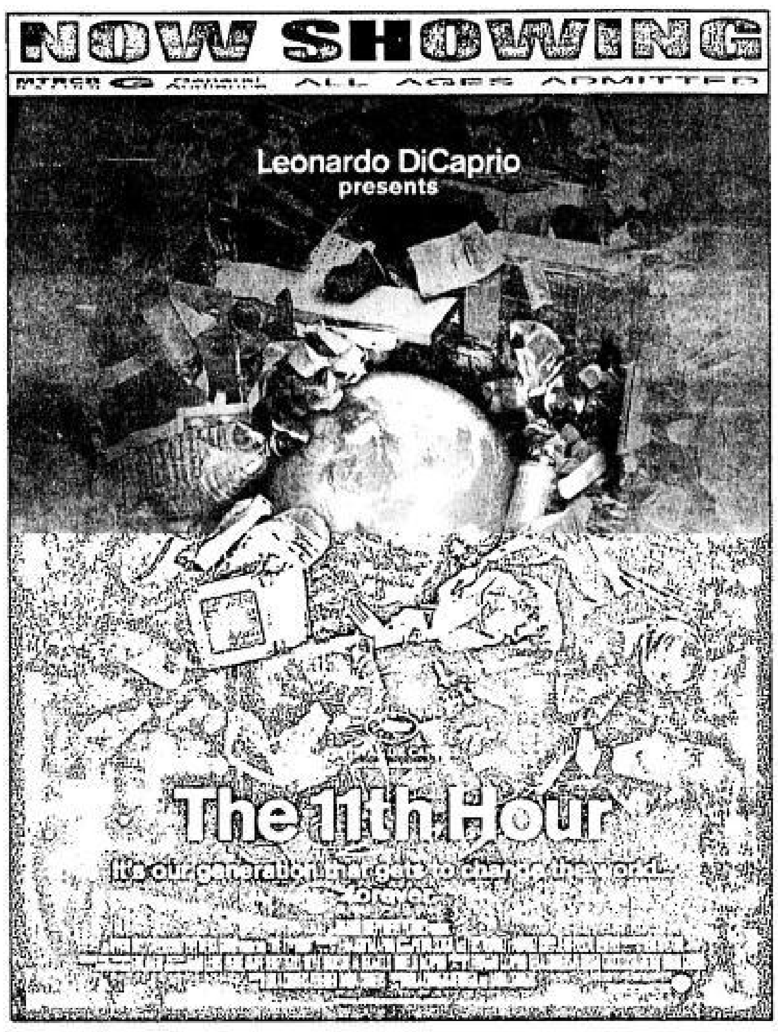
Claudine Trillo and Kit Cojuangco's "Timepieces" is all about watches. In "Living the Life," Trillo talks with high-profile men about their collections and hobbies.

"Pinoy Gamers," hosted by Reema Chanco, are for lovers of video games, and "Your Sport" is about extreme sports.

"Retrosports" features successful Filipinos in the field of sports. "The Bachelor's Pad" presents a bachelor's lifestyle.

The horse racing shows are: "Racing Roundtable," "Largabista," "King of Sports," "Ensayo at Trangko," "The Finish Line," "Racing Live" and "Inside Racing."

THE TWO top Makisig execs at work with studio crew. They say every *karerista* is watching the station.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CINEMA 5 STARDUST 10:45, 1:45, 4:40 7:35, 10:50 GP
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MUSIC MUSEUM		
October 18 & 19, 2007	Jericho Rosales	8:00 PM
October 25, 2007	Ogie Alcasid	8:00 PM
October 27, 2007	Jonathan Badon	8:00 PM

TEATRINO PROMENADE-GREENHILLS		
Oct. 10, 17, 24 & 31 October 28, 2007	Cerrudo Classico John Lesaca	8:00 PM 8:00 PM

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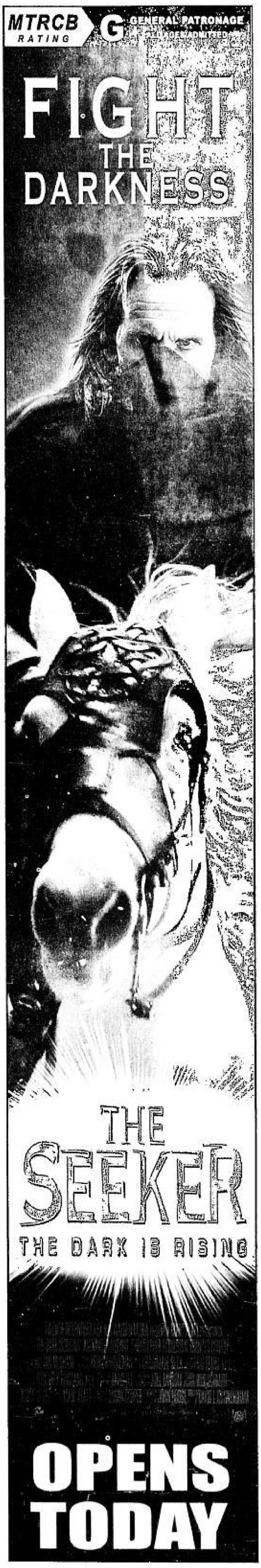
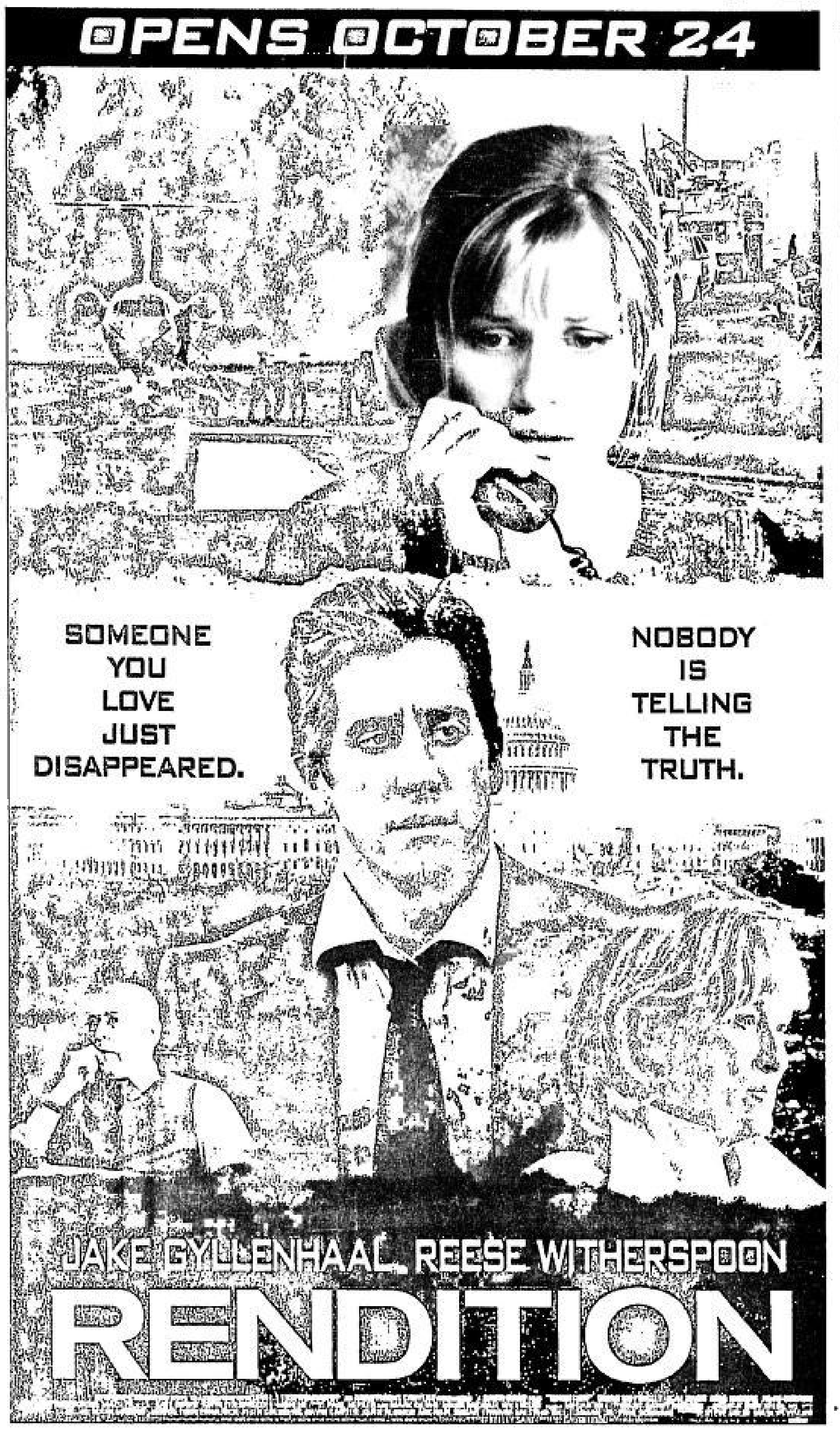
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 KNOCKED UP 2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:10 R-18
2 THE SEEKER 1:15, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 GP
3 STARDUST 2:15, 5:05, 7:55, 10:40 G
4 MR. WOODCOCK


MTRCB RATING G GENERAL PATRONAGE
FIGHT THE DARKNESS
THE SEEKER
THE DARK IS RISING
OPENS TODAY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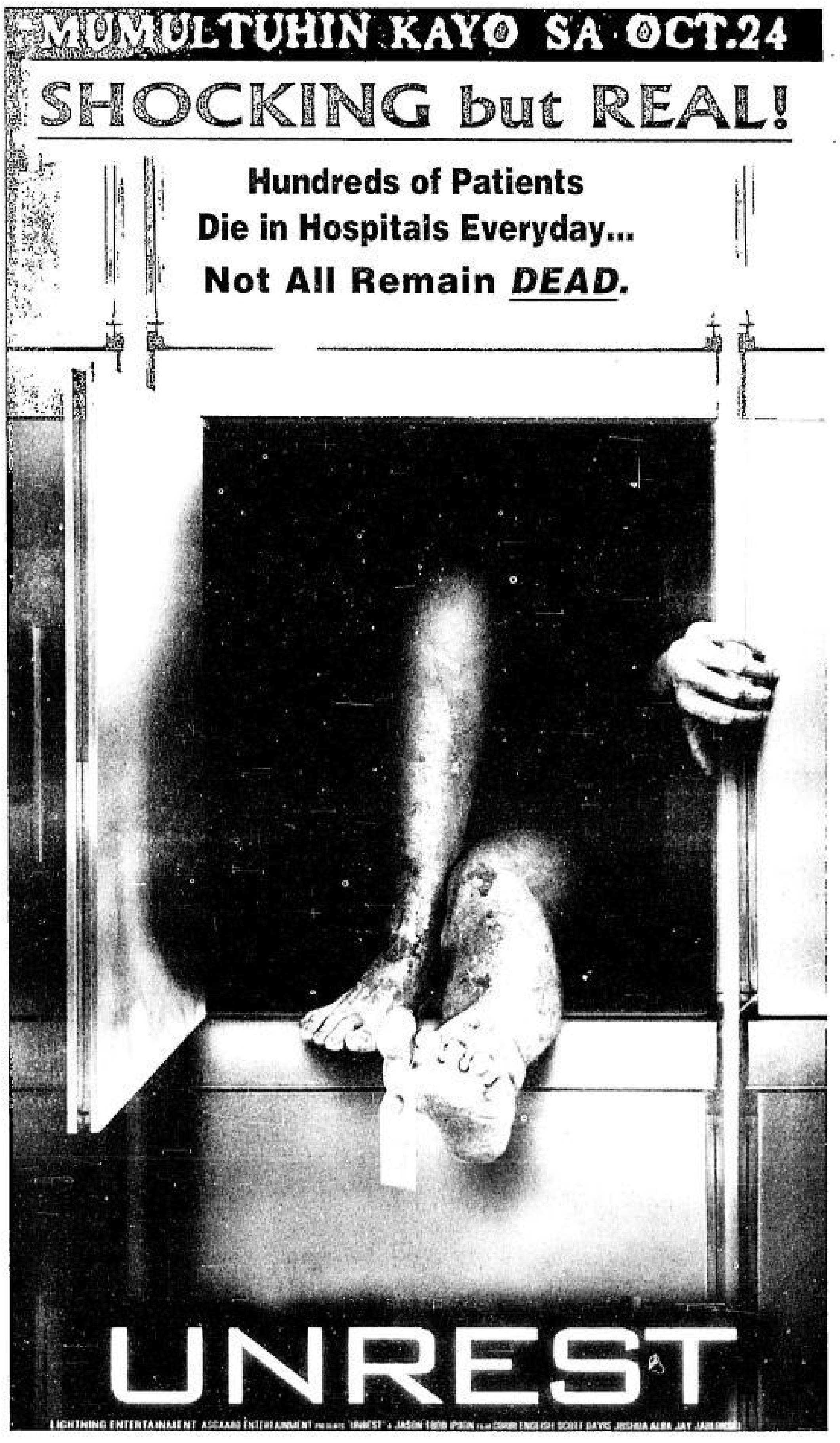
SOMEONE YOU LOVE JUST DISAPPEARED.
NOBODY IS TELLING THE TRUTH.
JAKE GYLLENHAAL, REESE WITHERSPOON
RENDITION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Daniel Solomon A. Dacino	Quezon City
Myra S. Arre	Marikina City
Ryan Barroa	Quezon City
Michelle Navarro	Las Piñas City
Jemelee Lomboy	Cavite City
Elaine B. Malic	Rizal
Charlotte F. San Roque	Bulacan
Timothy Jordan R. Manalang	Pasig City
Erna M. Borje	Antipolo City
Dante E. Reyes	Mandaluyong City
Christine T. Jimenez	Rizal
Anne Elinor Zamora	Caloocan City

Name	Location
Mario Vincent [illegible]	Quezon City
Edward Dominic M. [illegible]	Quezon City
[illegible] P. [illegible]	Rizal
[illegible] D.G. Antonio	Quezon City
[illegible] B. [illegible]	Quezon City
Patrick Soriano	Quezon City
[illegible]	San Juan
Allan B. [illegible]	Rizal
[illegible]	Pasay City
[illegible]	Pasig City
Rodel Moreno	Makati City
Camille Lozada	Parañaque City
Anthony Patrick Mola	Camarines Sur
Jayson David	Makati City
Catherine David	Pasay City

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GLORIETTA 1	1 HIGHLANDER: THE SOURCE	2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	3 KNOCKED UP	4 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT			
GLORIETTA 4	1 MR. WOODCOCK	2 STARDUST	3 THX HIGHLANDER: THE SOURCE GUARANTEED SEATS	4 KNOCKED UP	5 PERFUME: THE STORY OF A MURDERER	6 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	7 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION
GREENBELT 1	1 MR. WOODCOCK	2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING					
GREENBELT 3	1 THX STARDUST GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING GUARANTEED SEATS	3 KNOCKED UP GUARANTEED SEATS	4 PERFUME: THE STORY OF A MURDERER GUARANTEED SEATS	5 MR. WOODCOCK GUARANTEED SEATS		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	2 MR. WOODCOCK	3 STARDUST	4 KNOCKED UP	5 HIGHLANDER: THE SOURCE		
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	2 KNOCKED UP	3 STARDUST	4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME			
MARKET! MARKET!	1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	2 MR. WOODCOCK	3 KNOCKED UP	4 HIGHLANDER: THE SOURCE	5 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT		
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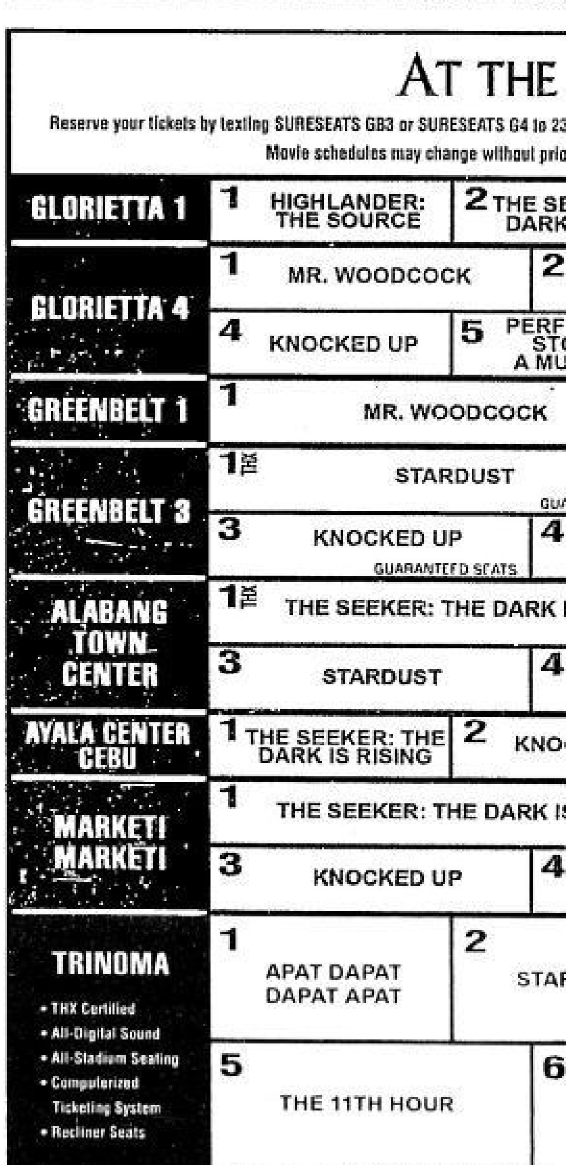
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Watch out for "The 11th Hour"
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October 24 - 30 at Alabang Town Center
October 31 - November 6 at Market! Market!

MTRCB Rating: General Audience (G)

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:

Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

glorietta	BPI Appliance Madness September 26 to October 16 at Glorietta Activity Center
GREENBELT	Viva Mexico: A Traditional Mexican Costume Exhibit October 8 to 15; Greenbelt 3 Lobby
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	The Click Five! ... America's Best Power Pop Band October 14; 6 PM; Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	BPI Automadness Exhibit October 11 to 14; Paseos
MARKET! MARKET!	Nescafe: Soundskool October 13; Activity Center
Greenbelt Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids August - December 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	HYBRIDITY: Mark Lewis Higgins September 18 to October 28, 2007; Ground Floor For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Rhythm Academy: Rachel Alejandro with Coro Tomasino October 17; 6 PM; Activity Center

Rhythm Academy

Relive the school spirit as the best school chorales share beautiful music with the country's top performers.

Featuring:

At theTriNoma Park Activity Center, 6pm
October 17: Rachel Alejandro with Coro Tomasino

At the TriNoma Park (4th Level) at 7:00 pm
October 6: Nina with The Kilyawan Boys Choir
October 20: The Company with The Las Piñas Boys Choir

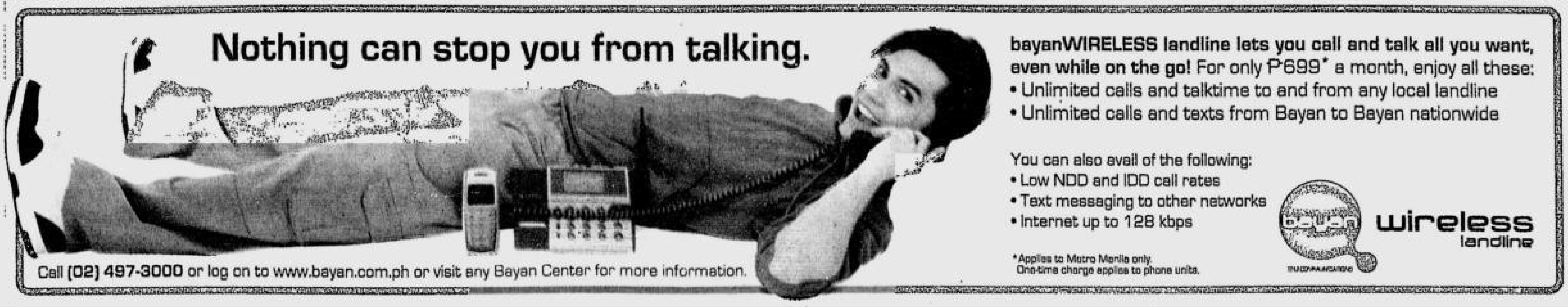
glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

ENTERTAINMENT

Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

INSIDE

Missing Debra Messing? She's back in 'Starter Wife'! Rushes /F4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THE GIG recalled the influences and outstanding work that made Babyface a major artist.

Babyface rocks Big Dome

By Pocholo Concepcion

KENNETH "BABYFACE" EDMONDS IS black, but his interest in music was sparked by white musicians.

This he recalled in the early part of his concert on Saturday at the Araneta Coliseum.

The multi-faceted artist paid tribute to James Taylor, Jim Croce, Eric Clapton and Bob Dylan—whose songs he first heard on AM radio when he was 11. "They were all writers and played guitar," Babyface recalled.

He was quick to point out the difference between his idols' pop-rock sound and the R&B groove he would be known for. But Babyface, playing guitar with a four-piece band, interpreted Croce's "Time in a Bottle" with a flamenco-style overture that reflected diversity in taste.

The band was likewise adventurous. Clapton's "Wonderful Tonight" had the keyboardist playing like a church organist with his Hammond, and the lead guitarist contorting his face from the fire and feeling of his ad libs.

BABYFACE/ F3

CHEER FACTOR

LONDON—PLAYWRIGHT OSCAR WILDE, who muttered on his death bed "Either those curtains go or I do," was named in a poll on Monday as Britain's greatest wit. In the Top 10, Winston Churchill made it to number five. To parliamentarian Bessie Braddock, who accused him of being drunk, he said: "Bessie, you're ugly. Tomorrow morning I will be sober but you will still be ugly." The poll of 3,000 comedy fans was conducted to launch UKTV digital channel Dave, "The home of witty banter." *Reuters*

CIARA in Las Vegas, with non-show biz boyfriend Jojo Oconer.

Ciara's new inspiration in Vegas

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

I ADMIRE CIARA SOTTO'S GUTS AND DEtermination to try her luck in the US. Being the daughter of show biz icons **Tito Sotto** and **Helen Gamboa** would open doors faster for her here, but she opted to do it the hard way and start from scratch abroad.

With her charm and talent, how can she fail? What more now that she has an inspiration in Vegas! Let the pics printed here say the rest. Ciara labeled these shots "My soul mate, my best friend" and said it was taken during her "best birthday ever."

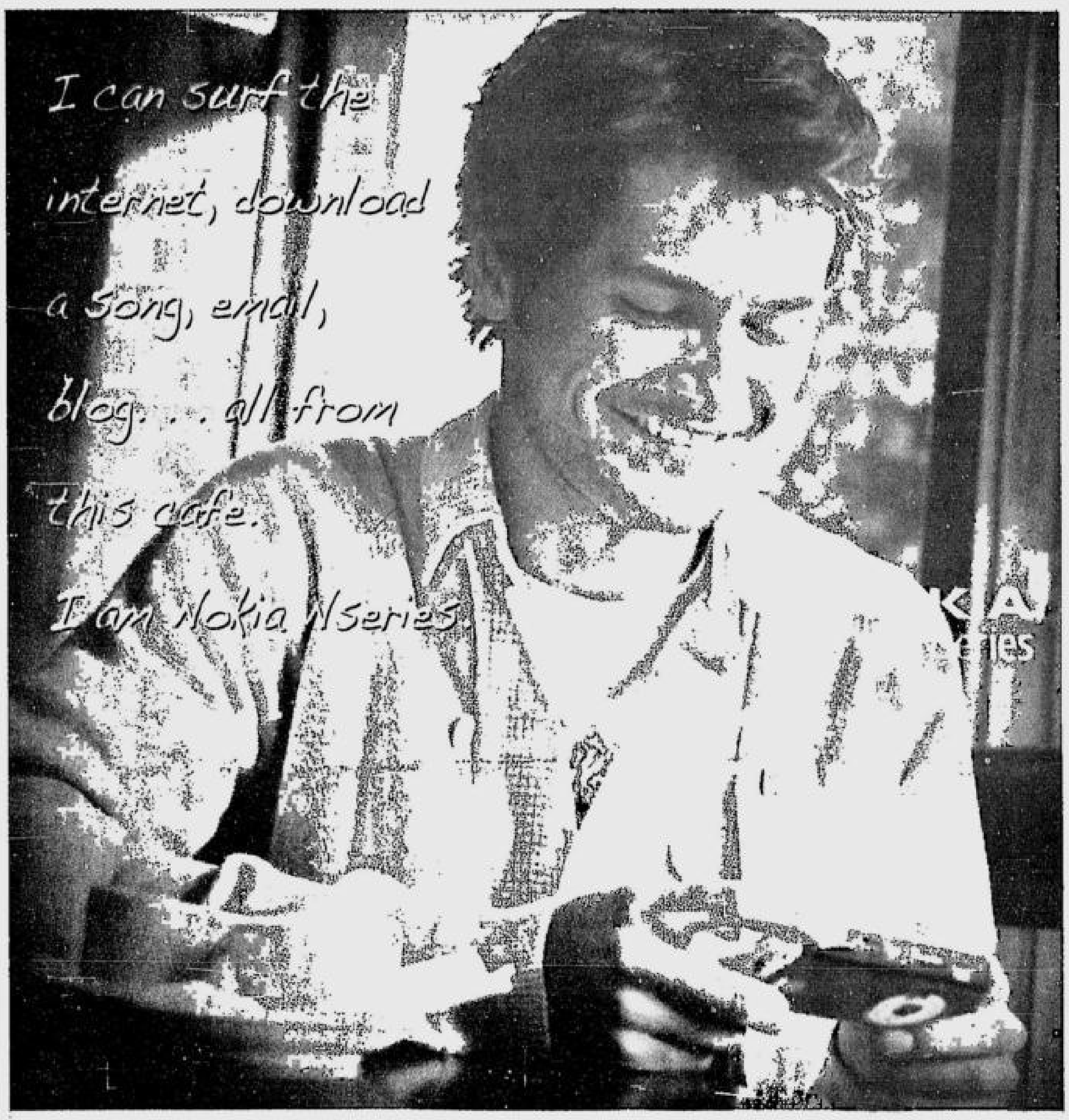
All stars on All Souls

Since All Souls' Day is fast approaching, I asked some celebs what their thoughts are about death. And also, what they would do if they knew it was already their last day on earth.

PAULEEN LUNA: "Death is my greatest fear. On my last day, I would just drive and drive my car with all my loved ones."

CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA: "I would give all my possessions to my loved ones and those in need. Then I'll go skydiving. Life on earth is temporary. Life after death is eternal so we'd

CIARA'S/ F3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- 2 MR. WOODCOCK
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- 4 KNOCKED UP
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- 6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
- 7 RESIDENT EVIL 3
- 8 indieSine:
- 9 NO RESERVATIONS
- 10 KUNG FU FIGHTER

ERMITA

[illegible]

- 1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
- 2 STARDUST
- 3 KNOCKED UP
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- 7 RESIDENT EVIL 3

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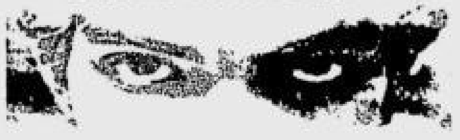

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- 7 KUNG FU FIGHTER
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- 1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
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- 3 NO RESERVATIONS
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- 2 KNOCKED UP
- 3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
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- 4 KUNG FU FIGHTER

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- 3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
- 4 RESIDENT EVIL 3 / DECEMBER BOYS

TARLAC

- 1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
- 2 THE BRAVE ONE / NACY DREW
- 3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

STARMILLS

[illegible]

- 1 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
- 2 KNOCKED UP
- 3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
- 4 RESIDENT EVIL 3 / WEDDING DAZE
- 5 THE SEEKER
- 6 DECEMBER BOYS

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- 3 NO RESERVATIONS
- 4 THE HOST
- 5 STARDUST
- 6 indieSine: TUKSO

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- 2 WEDDING DAZE
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- 4 THE HOST
- 5 DAYWATCH
- 6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

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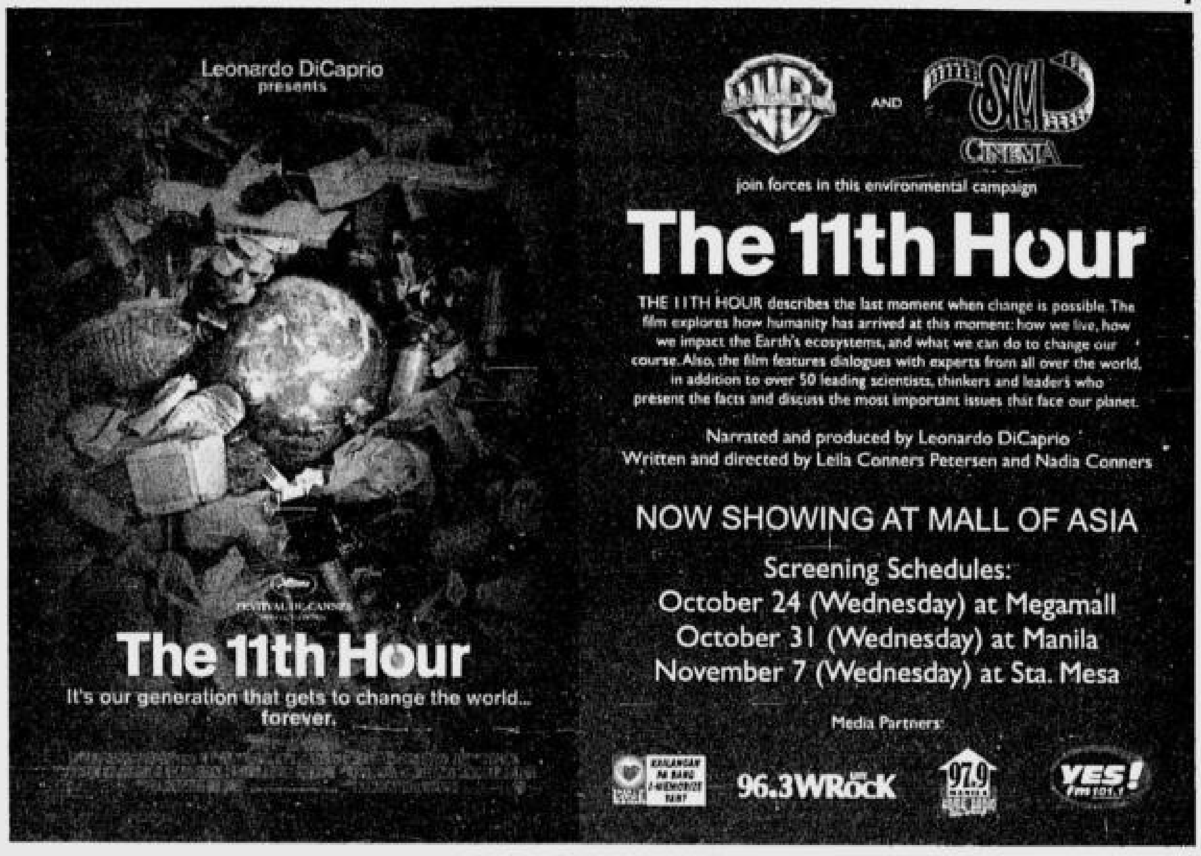

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- 9 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
- 10 ROGUE ASSASSIN
- 11 KUNG FU FIGHTER
- 12 STARDUST

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- 1 MR. WOODCOCK
- 2 HIGHLANDER V
- 3 STARDUST
- 4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
- 5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
- 6 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
- 7 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
- 8 KUNG FU FIGHTER
- 9 NO RESERVATIONS
- 10 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
- 11 RETRIBUTION
- 12 ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

- 1 STARDUST
- 2 RETRIBUTION
- 3 NO RESERVATIONS
- 4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
- 5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
- 6 HIGHLANDER V
- 7 RESIDENT EVIL
- 8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
- 9 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
- 10 KUNG FU FIGHTER
- 11 WEDDING DAZE
- 12 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

- 1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
- 2 STARDUST
- 3 HIGHLANDER V
- 4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
- 5 RESIDENT EVIL 3
- 6 WEDDING DAZE
- 7 KUNG FU FIGHTER
- 8 ROGUE ASSASSIN
- 9 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
- 10 NO RESERVATIONS

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

- 1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
- 2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
- 3 HIGHLANDER V
- 4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
- 5 STARDUST
- 6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888

- 1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
- 2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
- 3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
- 4 HIGHLANDER V
- 5 MR WOODCOCK
- 6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
- 7 STARDUST
- 8 KUNG FU FIGHTER
- 9 RETRIBUTION

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

- 1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
- 2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
- 3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
- 4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

- 1 THE SEEKER THE DARK IS RISING
- 2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
- 3 HIGHLANDER V
- 4 STARDUST
- 5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
- 6 **RESERVED**
- 7 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
- 8 RETRIBUTION
- 9 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
- 10 KUNG FU FIGHTER
- 11 ROGUE ASSASSIN
- 12 MR. WOODCOCK

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04

- 1 STARDUST
- 2 RESIDENT EVIL
- 3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
- 4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917

- 1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
- 2 STARDUST
- 3 RETRIBUTION
- 4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

- 1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
- 2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
- 3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
- 4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868

- 1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
- 2 STARDUST
- 3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
- 4 RETRIBUTION
- 5 HIGHLANDER V
- 6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
- 7 KUNG FU FIGHTER
- 8 RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

- 1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
- 2 STARDUST
- 3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
- 4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
- 5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
- 6 DECEMBER BOYS

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

- 1 NO RESERVATIONS
- 2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
- 3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
- 4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

- 1 NO RESERVATIONS
- 2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
- 3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
- 4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85

- 1 RESIDENT EVIL
- 2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
- 3 STARDUST
- 4 DECEMBER BOYS
- 5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
- 6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187

- 1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
- 2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
- 3 RESIDENT EVIL
- 4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

- 1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
- 2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
- 3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
- 4 NO RESERVATIONS

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39

- 1 STARDUST
- 2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
- 3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
- 4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

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- 1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
- 2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
- 3 RETRIBUTION
- 4 KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811

- 1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
- 2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
- 3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
- 4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

- 1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
- 2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
- 3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
- 4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
- 5 SKINWALKERS
- 6 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884

- 1 NO RESERVATIONS
- 2 SKINWALKERS
- 3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
- 4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

- 1 NO RESERVATIONS
- 2 **RESERVED**
- 3 WEDDING DAZE
- 4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
- 5 DAYWATCH
- 6 ROGUE ASSASSIN
- 7 **RESERVED**
- 8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

- 1 **RESERVED**
- 2 STARDUST
- 3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
- 4 NO RESERVATIONS
- 5 SKINWALKERS
- 6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
- 7 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
- 8 RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010

- 1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
- 2 STARDUST
- 3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
- 4 NO RESERVATIONS

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Ciara's new inspiration in Vegas

From page F1

better be sure where we are going after this life."

NINA: "Before I die, I would like to try getting really drunk. We'll never know when death will happen or perceive that it will ever totally come. We should not dwell on it too much to the point of failing to appreciate and live life to the max!"

JED MADELA: "On my last day, I'd go bungee jumping! I think of death as moving on to the next chapter of existence. It's not the end but a beginning of even greater things."

MARIEL RODRIGUEZ: " I would eat and eat all the food I usually don't eat because of my diet. I'll die the next day *naman* so no more worries about getting fat."

ALFRED VARGAS: "I want to travel around the world and feed my soul with the rich 'marrow of life' before I go. Death is a necessary end. I believe in eternal life."

ALESSANDRA DE ROSSI: "I'd go back to Italy the day before I die. *Deadma ako sa* death because it scares the hell out of me!"

JOHN ESTRADA: First, I would apologize to all the people I've hurt or offended. Then I'd play golf and go skydiving. Death is inevitable so I don't really think about it. But people should fear death, especially if they know their lives are worth living.

PBL opening

Catch the surprise-filled opening day of the Philippine Basketball League's 25th season on Oct. 20 at the San Juan arena. There will be Viva movies shown prior to the game, a free concert featuring Bloomfields, Protein Shake, Blue Ketsup and **Mark Bautista**, plus videoke sing-along courtesy of Extreme Magic Sing.

Birthday cheers to PBL's ace **Jacque Ruby.**

Eye candy

Catch Style magazine's Eye Catchers Leg 8 at Cabin Bar (114 Scout Lozano) on Oct. 20, 8 p.m. Feast on eye candy all night long!

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.

Babyface rocks…

From page F1

Looking back on his own storied career, Babyface proceeded to perform his own songs, notably "What If" and another tune in which his smooth, sliding vocal style and falsetto echoed a style very much copied by many aspiring R&B singers.

The mood and energy level rose, as Babyface interpreted some of the biggest hits he wrote and produced for Bobby Brown, Boyz II Men, TLC, Whitney Houston, Toni Braxton, Karyn White and Madonna.

The gig unexpectedly attracted a large crowd from all ages, including show biz folk like Richard and Lucy Gomez, Maricel Soriano and Wendell Ramos.

Another unexpected sight: Sasha, Babyface's protege who belted like a young Tina Turner and Aretha Franklin.

Sasha breezed through her versions of "Breathe Again," "Another Sad Love Song" "Exhale (Shoop, Shoop), "Superwoman" and other hits.

After he posited the question, "How do I write like a girl?", Babyface said: "All of us don't want to get hurt (in a relationship), so that's what I always think about."

That was the essence of "Take a Bow," which Babyface co-wrote in Canto-pop style. Sasha helped remind us why it's one of the best ballads Madonna ever recorded.

Clapton's "Change the World" closed the show.

Babyface's version had a keyboards-guitar jam, yet maintained a soulful groove.

In concert, Babyface was the epitome of cool.

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 NO RESERVATIONS
MTRCB: GP
2 THE SEEKER
MTRCB GP 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
3 KNOCKED UP
MTRCB R-18
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
4 MR. WOODCOCK
(SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING)
PREMIERE THEATRE
STAR DUST (GP)
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KNOCKED UP R18	THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING G	HIGHLANDER: THE SOURCE
STARDUST G	MR.WOODCOCK	THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING G

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MR WOODCOCK 12.30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30	HIGHLANDER : THE SOURCE 1:45 / 4:20 / 6:55 / 9:30	APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX	RESIDENT EVIL : EXTINCTION	STARDUST 12:35 / 3:30 / 6:25 / 9:20	THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00

MALL CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

HIGHLANDER : THE SOURCE 1:05 / 3:45 / 6:15 / 8:50	THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING 12:10 R5 / 1:00 / 3:30 / 5:50 / 8:10

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Eugene Domingo
Pokwang
Candy Pangilinan
Apat Dapat DAPAT APAT
FRIENDS 4 LYF AND DEATH
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Directed by WENN V. DERAMAS
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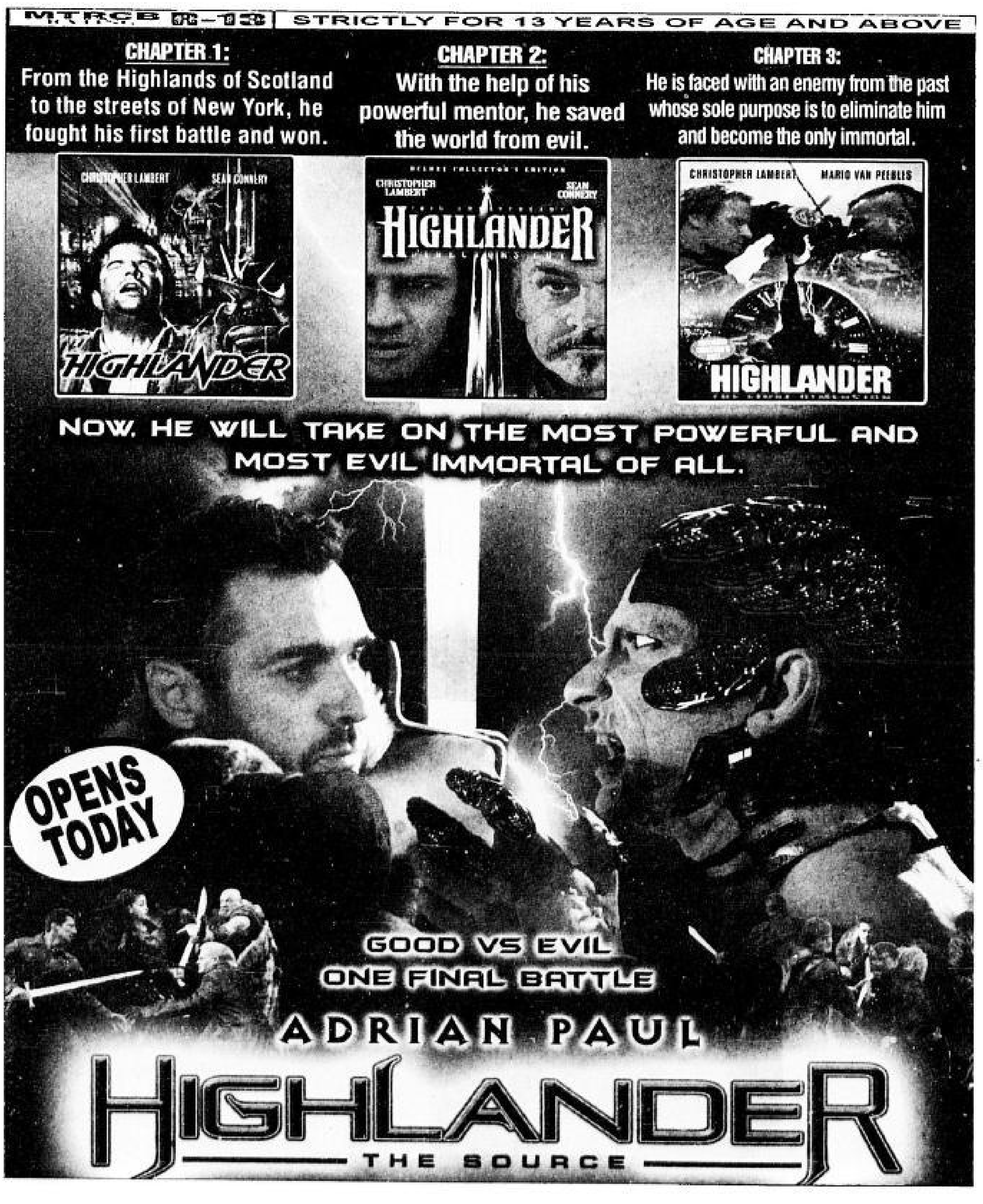
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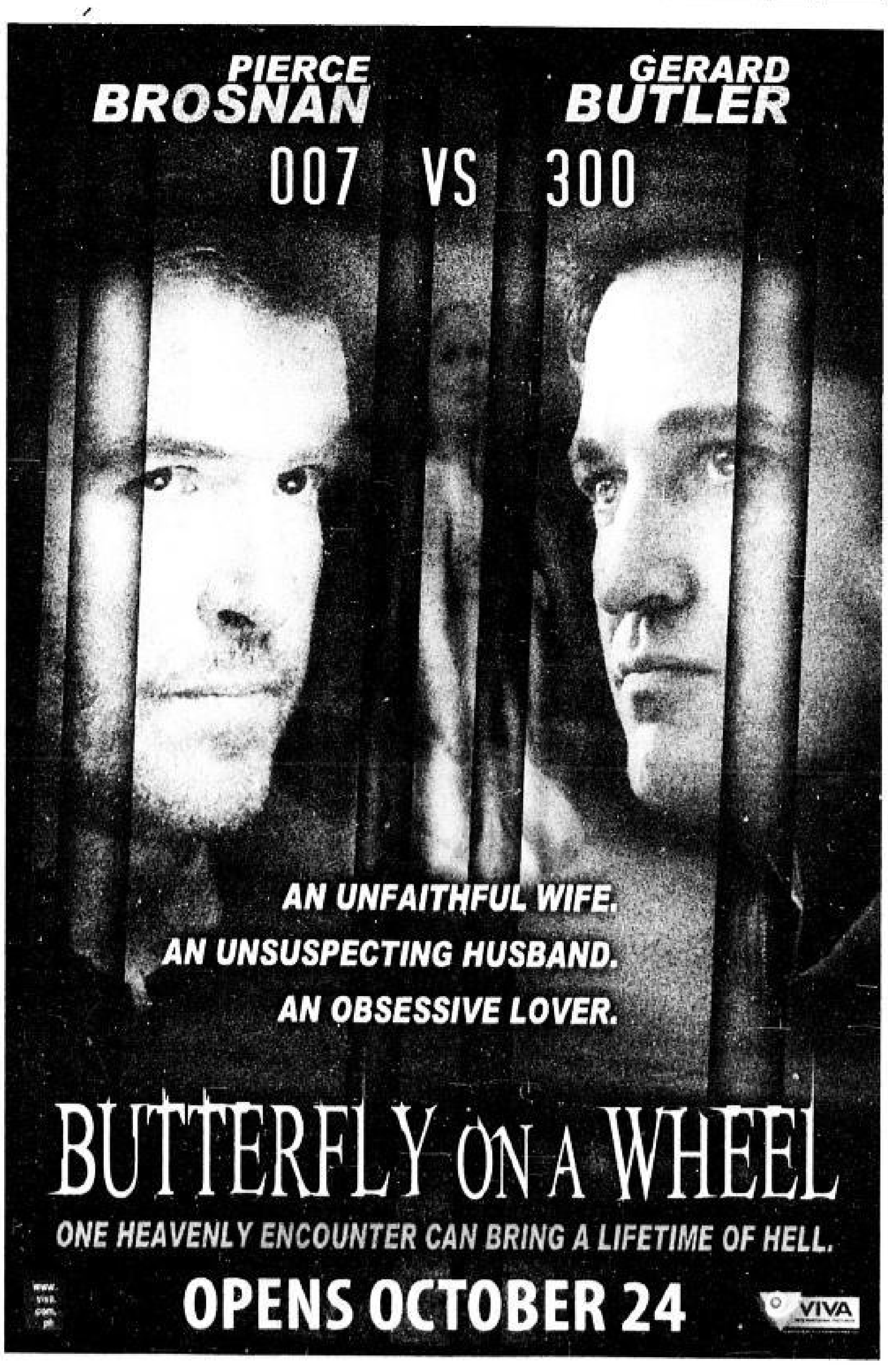
GOOD VS EVIL
ONE FINAL BATTLE
ADRIAN PAUL
HIGHLANDER
THE SOURCE


PIERCE BROSNAN
GERARD BUTLER
007 VS 300
AN UNFAITHFUL WIFE.
AN UNSUSPECTING HUSBAND.
AN OBSESSIVE LOVER.
BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
ONE HEAVENLY ENCOUNTER CAN BRING A LIFETIME OF HELL.
OPENS OCTOBER 24
VIVA

Opening Today

Knocked Up

Stars Katherine Heigl, Seth Rogen, Leslie Mann, Paul Rudd

Directed by Judd Apatow

A beautiful show biz writer (Heigl) gets pregnant after a drunken one-night stand with a less-than hunky guy (Rogen). David Ansen of Newsweek raves that the comedy's "components may seem familiar, but they come together in surprising ways." Tom Charity of CNN.com agrees: Its "winning combination of benevolence and belly laughs will leave audiences smiling." Film Threat's Mark Bell exclaims: It "rocked the house."

Perfume: The Story of a Murderer

Stars Ben Whishaw, Alan Rickman, Rachel Hurd-Wood, Dustin Hoffman

Directed by Tom Tykwer

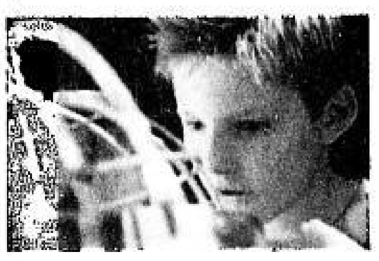
Based on Patrick Suskind's 1985 bestseller, this "dark thriller" casts an 18th-century serial killer (Whishaw) as hero. Bernard Besserglik of The Hollywood Reporter comments that "despite its faults [it] maintains its queasy grip." Amy Biancolli of Houston Chronicle describes it as "a film that inhales and savors transgression." Carina Chocano of Los Angeles Times calls it an "unaccountably compelling story."

Mr. Woodcock

Stars Billy Bob Thornton, Seann William Scott, Susan Sarandon, Amy Poehler

Directed Craig Gillespie

A self-help author is horrified to learn that his sadistic high-school PE teacher (Thornton) is now dating his mom (Sarandon). Stephen Hunter of Washington Post points out that it "delivers some chuckles [and] mild pleasures." Roger Ebert of Chicago Sun-Times opines: It's "perversely more interesting as hardball [comedy]." Steven Boone of Newark Star-Ledger sums it up as "a dark comedy with performances that ring universally true."



The Seeker: The Dark is Rising

Stars Alexander Ludwig, Ian McShane, Frances Conroy, Christopher Eccleston

Directed by David L. Cunningham

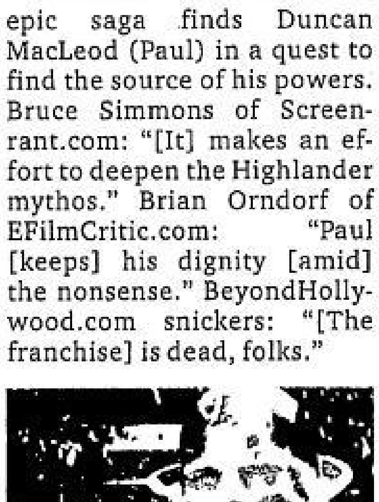
Inspired by a series of children's books by Susan Cooper, this flick follows the adventures of a schoolboy (Ludwig) who's a magical warrior tasked to save the world. Kelley Carter of Chicago Tribune thinks it's "a pretty vivid fantasy book come-to-life." Jeannette Catsoulis of New York Times complains that it "feels passé and lacks a charismatic lead." Claudia Puig of USA Today says that "the result is rather clunky."

Highlander V: The Source

Stars Adrian Paul, Thekla Reuten, Peter Wingfield, Thom Fell

Directed by Brett Leonard

This fifth installment of the epic saga finds Duncan MacLeod (Paul) in a quest to find the source of his powers. Bruce Simmons of Screenrant.com: "[It] makes an effort to deepen the Highlander mythos." Brian Orndorf of EFilmCritic.com: "Paul [keeps] his dignity [amid] the nonsense." BeyondHollywood.com snickers: "[The franchise] is dead, folks."



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Rushes

Debra Messing topbills new Emmy front-runner

DEBRA Messing as a fallen socialite in "The Starter Wife"

MISSING DEBRA MESSING?

We said goodbye to "Will & Grace" with heavy hearts. Well, Debra's back in a big way, her latest leap being proof positive that sparkling talent such as hers cannot stay under the radar.

"The Starter Wife," a hilarious and sensitive mini-series, airs on Hallmark starting Sunday, Oct. 21. We're in line for an interview with the actress, but we can't wait to announce this.

Based on Gigi Levangie Grazer's New York Times bestseller of the same title, "The Starter Wife" has earned 10 Emmy nods, including a Lead Actress nomination for our gal, and for Outstanding Miniseries for the Six-Hour Television Event.

It is about Molly Kagan (Messing), who's just emerging from a devastating divorce with her movie mogul husband. Now she has to live outside the high-profile, high-power lifestyle of the elite social circuit that she once commanded. We went to a pre-screening last week and can't wait to see it through to the conclusion. Take our word for it, it's guilty-pleasure territory—smart, savvy and wicked! Sunday's two-hour preem starts at 9 p.m.

Underage Idols

ALBANY, New York— The parent company of the "American Idols Live Tour '07" violated child labor laws during its New York concert dates, according to the state Department of Labor. The company, 19 Touring LLC, did not have child performer permits for two singers—Jordin Sparks and Sanjaya Malakar—who were under 18 during the New York dates in August and September. Sparks is 17. Malakar turned 18 last month. The company will pay $5,000 in fines. *AP*

A bit insane

LOS ANGELES—Jimmy Kimmel is going bicoastal as a TV talk show host. The host of ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" will fill in for a vacationing Regis Philbin on "Live with Regis and Kelly" in New York while still hosting his namesake show from Los Angeles. During the week of Oct. 22, Kimmel will fly back and forth across the country daily, co-hosting with Kelly Ripa in New York each morning and taping his own show in Los Angeles each night. That's two cross-country flights a day for five days.

"I am a little bit insane," Kimmel told The Associated Press. "It will be difficult, but that's how committed I am to entertaining America. And parts of Canada." He said he agreed to the bicoastal gig because "you can easily get in a rut when you're doing a show every night and this is definitely not rut territory. If you give me enough advance notice, I will agree to almost anything. I'm hosting the American Music Awards in mid-November. I also drive a cab on weekends." *AP*

* * *

Top of the talk shows

For those who missed last weekend's gabfests on TV. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

- Polo Ravales on talk he had "snatched" Miss Earth Canada and Pinoy Big Brother Celebrity Edition 2 housemate Rizza Santos from singer Mark Bautista:

"Never *ako nanulot.*"

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

ARA Mina

- Polo on the controversy surrounding ex-girlfriend Ara Mina, rumored to have a relationship with Manny Pacquiao:

"*Maliit na* issue *lang 'yan para sa kanya.*"

- Ara Mina's appeal to Manny Pacquiao:

"*Sana 'yung mga* involved *na tao … linisin lang 'yung pangalan ko.* I explained myself already. That's it. I'm not mad at him. I'm not mad at his wife. *Naiiyak lang ako* for my mom *kasi nasasaktan siya. Parang hindi ko siguro mapapatawad pag … may nangyaring masama sa* mommy *ko.*" (Okay, we don't believe. There.)"

Manny of the hour

- Manny Pacquiao, breaking his silence on the rumor:

"*Magkaibigan lang kami at saka may* movie *kami.* Almost finished *na 'yung* movie. *Alam mo na pagka ganoon, may mga intri-intriga.*" (Careful, man—that's a trade secret.)

- Jinkee Pacquiao on the alleged relationship:

"*Ayoko ng mga ganoon kasi gusto ko tahimik na buhay tapos ganoon pa?*" (Pull him out of show biz, girl, or grin and bear it.)

The next level

- Erik Santos on the possibility of rekindling his relationship with Rufa Mae Quinto:

"*Iba ang magkaibigan, iba ang mag*-girlfriend-boyfriend. *Malaking* difference *'yun. Ngayon* we're friends."

- Rufa Mae on mending ties with Erik:

"*Inayos namin? Wala, nag*-forward-*an lang naman ng mga* quotations, *gano'n.* I said sorry and told him what went wrong. *Iyon, napag-usap-usapan. Siya din naman. Na*-realize *daw niya na ganito-ganyan.* In fairness, fair is fair." (*Ano raw?*)

Sports or kids?

- Aga Muhlach and Charlene Gonzales on the possibility of having more children:

Charlene: "They're a handful already … so for now, okay *muna sina* Atasha *at* Andres."

Aga: "We're not talking about it right now. Plus you know, it's gonna take my time off from wakeboarding." (Yes, we know.)

No and no

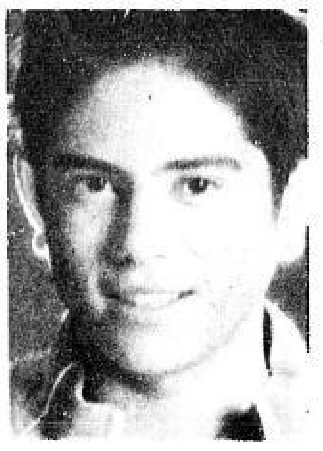
- Biboy Ramirez on rumors that supposed girlfriend Jackie Rice is pregnant with his child:

"*Unang una, hindi ako ang tatay. Pangalawa, hindi siya buntis. Walang katotohanan sa dalawang yan.*"

Spare the kid!

- Criselda Volks after her latest suicide attempt:

"When Cris (Villanueva) and I broke up, it [became] really lonely. I do really still love Cris. I just locked the room. Stupid me, I just decided to drink some (edited out), and passed out. It's a shame. I was pretty bored with my life and I wanna leave the Philippines. But sadly, Cris won't sign the papers. I wanna go to Las Vegas. I want to go back to the United States to work. You know, I'm also depressed. There's now work coming in. It was actually stupid, I should have thought of my son. My son is still here relying on me." (Key words: "stupid," and "there's now work coming in.")



GERALD Anderson

- Criselda's son Rafa on his dad, Cris Villanueva:

"I haven't talked to my dad for so long—a long, long, long, long time." (Did he say long?)

- Cris denying Criselda's claims:

"It's not true … that I won't sign any papers or I'm not allowing Rafa to leave with her. I haven't spoken to her for almost three years now."

Period, now

- Dino Guevarra on filing a petition for the annulment of his marriage to Kim de los Santos:

"*Tuldukan na ang lahat para matahimik kami pareho.*" (*Korek*, period.)

Jom understands *daw*

- Jomari Yllana on Martin Nievera's televised statements about his rift with estranged wife, Pops Fernandez:

"*Hindi ko napanood 'yung* interview. *Minsan siguro, talagang pinagdadaanan ng lahat 'yan eh. Ganoon talaga. Ganoon ang buhay eh. Pero, 'ika nga, tuloy pa rin. Di naman kami nakakapag-usap talaga. Kaibigan ko siya. Nakilala ko siya.* There was a time *nag*-text *siya sa akin* before. *Di lang talaga ako nakapag*-respond. *Humingi ako ng paumanhin. Hindi ko nasunod ang* proper cell phone etiquette." (Got that; that's life.)

JOMARI Yllana

- Jom on Pops

"I clearly understand what they are going through. *Wala namang gulo na hindi naaayos sa matinong usapan.* It's just a matter of time. *Pero naniniwala ako dahil si* Pops *ibang klaseng tao, ako, ibang klaseng tao din, may mga bagay kaming hindi mapagkakasunduan. Hindi ko lang alam kung ano ang magiging* issues *namin* in the future. So *tingnan natin. 'Yan ang* magic *ng buhay eh.*" (Got that.)

Hardest for Martin … Jickain

- Martin Jickain on missing his daughter, Marthena:

"*Sobrang lungkot. Siguro ito na ang pinakamasakit na nangyari sa buhay ko. Alam mo 'yung … isang araw lang,* miss *na* miss *mo na 'yung anak mo,* what more *sa akin, dalawang buwan ko nang hindi nakikita 'yung anak ko.*"

In no rush

- Aiko Melendez on her rumored new boyfriend Patrick Meneses:

"Give me a break. I may be separated, but … Let's spare all my male friends, including Patrick, because he was never the reason for my separation. *'Di ako nagmamadali.* I just go out with friends."

Snooky shoots away

- Snooky on why she called Ai-Ai de las Alas in a radio program as one of two of the "most plastic" in show biz:

"*Nagkasama kami sa pelikula noon.* She was so friendly, *ang ganda nung* relationship *namin. [Tapos] na*-invite *ako ni* Direk Wenn Deramas *sa* premiere party *at saka*, I think if I remember right, birthday celebration *din ni* Miss Ai-Ai. The whole evening *'di niya ako pinapansin.* Although *binati ko siya.* To put it bluntly, I felt stupid *na para bang* trying hard *ako na pinipilit ko ang sarili ko na magpa*-in *doon.*"

- Snooky now aiming her guns at Gerald Anderson, whom she labeled the other "most plastic" actor in show biz:

"*Pinakilala kang minsan*, okay. *Sabihin natin, nagmamadali ka. Pero pinakilala kang nang harap-harapan, pangalawang beses. At naka-ganyan ka lang. Parang,* hello. *Hindi man ako kasing superstar mo,* Gerald, *may karapatan naman ako sigurong galangin mo.*"

- Gerald on Snooky's charges:

"You can't please everyone. Si Miss Snooky *'yan. Di ko alam kung paano ako nadamay. Sobrang mahiyain po ako. Hindi po ako lalapit talaga … hangga't hindi pinakilala. [Pero]* sorry *po.*" (*'Yun naman pala.*)

- Snooky's message to Gerald:

"You don't have to kiss my (bleep). You don't have to make me *samba-samba. Sana lang naman, huwag lang naman tratuhin kaming mga medyo matagal na sa industriya na para bang hindi na kami mga sikat* so, 'Do I know you?' *Parang ganoon ang dating. Nasaktan ako siyempre. Baka kailangan ni Gerald ng* memory pill." (Sensitive.)

- Kim Chiu defending Gerald:

"*Sabi ni* Snooky? *Sino ba ito,* Snooky *na babae o* Snooky *na lalake?*" (*Lagot,* next *ka na.*)

In fairness

- Dinagat Islands Gov. Geraldine Ecleo-Villaroman on the alleged hostage incident involving Jean Garcia:

"In fairness to Jean, the word 'hostage' did not come out from her mouth. In fairness to Jean, the word 'traumatic' did not out come from her mouth. *Walang nangyari talaga kay* Jean. She is a friend and she will remain in my heart forever. I will cherish the good memories." (Man, that's loaded.)

WORLD / A23

Burma crackdown:
UN dares Asean to turn rhetoric into action

BUSINESS / B1

Budget gap hit P14.5B
in Sept.; deficit well within gov't target for '07

BUSINESS / B1

IMF raises
RP growth outlook

NEWS / A2

JDV admits
'pressure' in impeach case

Long weekends: Oct. 29, Nov. 1 and 2 all holidays

GOOD NEWS FOR THE FILIPINO WORKER.

The Philippine workforce is set to have not just one, but two long weekends, thanks to the coming barangay elections and the annual observation of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

President Macapagal-Arroyo on Tues-

LONG/A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Thursday, October 18, 200 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 312 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Mayor lording it over Ulap miffs governors

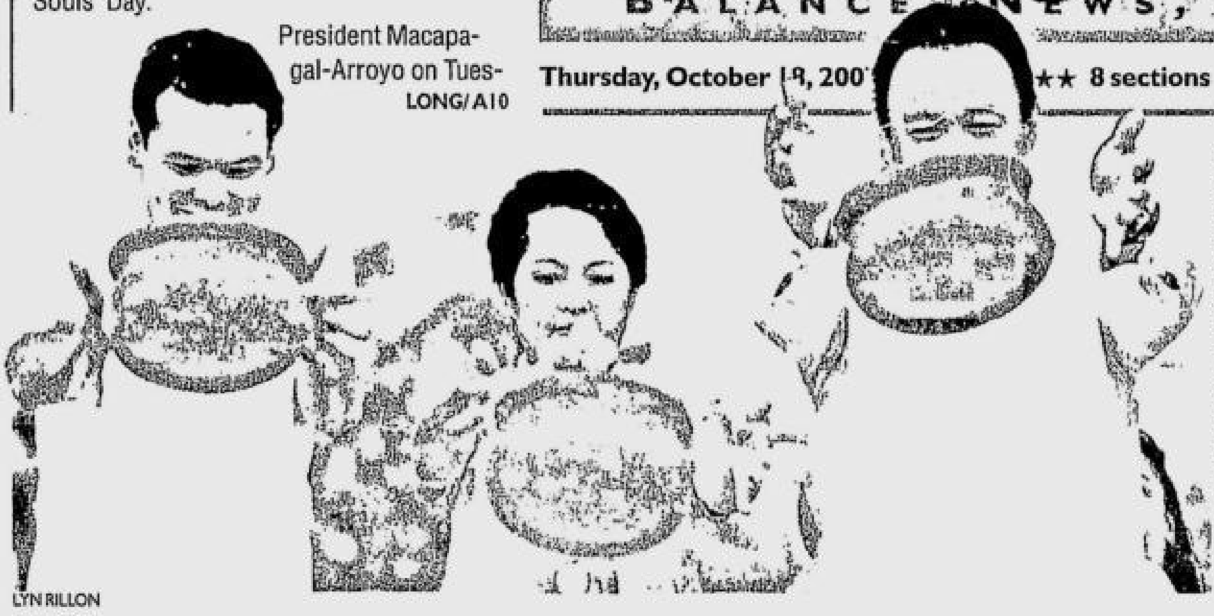
By Michael Lim Ubac

KULOG AT KIDLAT ANG LAMAN NG ULAP NA YAN

A SMALL-TOWN mayor is lording it over the governors in the proadministration Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap), and the provincial chief executives are not happy about it.

But then again, Mayor Ramon Guico Jr. of Binalonan, Pangasinan, isn't really small-time. He is a cousin of President Macapagal-Arroyo, whose mother Eva was a native of the town.

MAYOR/A18



LYN RILLON

CAMIGUIN FEST President Arroyo drops clay pot filled with lanzones to open the Lanzones Festival in Mambajao, Camiguin, on Wednesday. With her are Tourism Secretary Ace Durano (left) and Gov. Jurdin M. Romualdo (right).

'Angry, hurt' President orders probe of doles

By Michael Lim Ubac and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO ordered an internal investigation of the purported distribution of money to congressmen and local officials as early as last week, according to her lieutenants.

In a press conference yesterday, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno and Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President was "angry" and "hurt" by insinuations that she had tolerated the incident.

They said that as early as Oct. 12, or

ANGRY/A19

GMA present, says solon

Preacher-lawmaker says men in barong gave out cash in bags

By Norman Bordadora, Christian V. Esguerra and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

A PREACHER-CONGRESSMAN HAS ADDED HIS VOICE TO those bearing witness to the alleged cash handouts to politicians in Malacañang and for the first time came out with a testimony that the distribution was done in the presence of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Manila Rep. Bienvenido Abante, listed in the House website as a "Minister of Gospel," yesterday admitted receiving five bundles of P100,000 each, or a total of P500,000, from a person wearing a barong shirt—one of many involved in the distribution—during a breakfast hosted by President Macapagal-Arroyo last Thursday.

Abante said Ms Arroyo herself was present during the distribution of cash.

"The men in barong came out and began handing out paper bags, the floral type, glossy," the congressman said in a telephone interview.

He said the bundles of cash were right inside the paper bag with no more wrap or cover.

Abante said he did not think of it as a bribe. He said that as in the past election seasons, he assumed it was a form

GMA PRESENT/A19

Cory, FVR, Erap deny they gave out cash

THE CLAIM OF ENVIRONMENT Secretary Lito Atienza that he had received "cash gifts" from Malacañang as a matter of course throughout his nine years as mayor of Manila drew cold rebuttals from President Macapagal-Arroyo's predecessors.

In a statement issued yesterday, former President Fidel Ramos said that during his term in 1992-98, he distributed paper bags with Christmas goodies for indigents but never paper bags with cash gifts to congressmen "for whatever purpose whatsoever."

Asked to comment on Atienza's claim, ousted President Joseph Estrada admitted giving the then Manila mayor P50 million during his term, but not as a gift.

Estrada, who was convicted of two counts of plunder last month by the Sandiganbayan,

CORY, FVR/A19

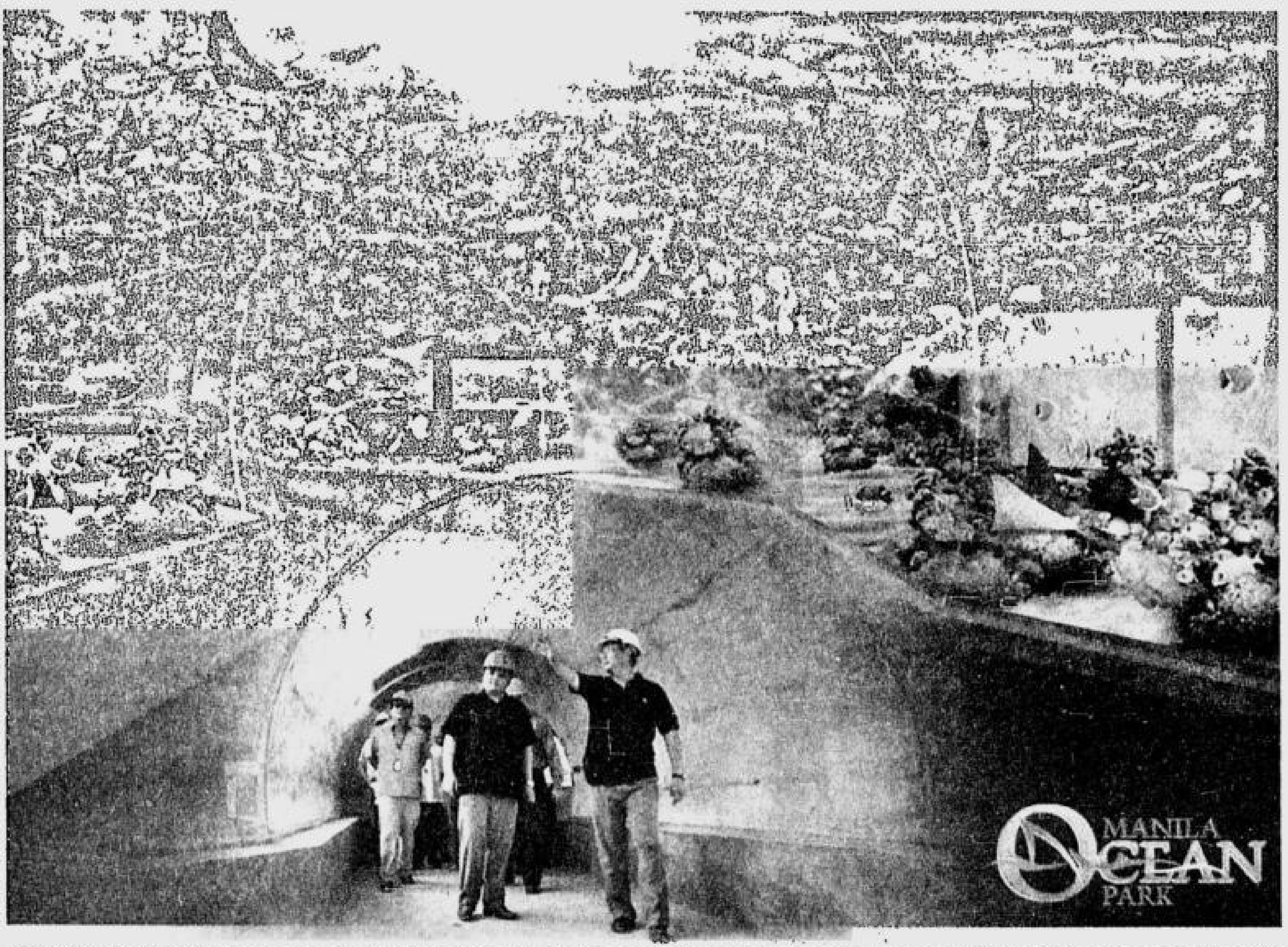


PHOTO PROVIDED BY MANILA OCEAN PARK/REM ZAMORA

AN ARTIST'S presentation of the oceanarium that is scheduled to open in December. Inset photo shows PTA chief Robert Dean Barbers with Manila Ocean Park president Lim Chee Yong inspecting the progress of the construction at the back of Rizal Park's Quirino Grandstand.

Finally, world-class marine park in Manila

By Margaux C. Ortiz

IMAGINE GOING TO MANILA Bay and coming face-to-face with a shark or even a school of fierce barracudas.

Come December, this awesome scene would be experienced by Filipino adults and children alike with the completion of the Manila Ocean Park just behind the Quirino Grandstand at the Rizal Park.

The ocean park, a P1-billion project of Singaporean and Malaysian investors, is the first world-class marine park to adopt a "fusion concept," according to Manila Ocean Park president Lim Chee Yong.

Lim said the concept entailed bringing together an oceanarium, a mall, a boutique hotel, a restaurant row and open marine habitats—where marine

FINALLY/A10

Malacañang told to heed warning on restive troops

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Michael Lim Ubac and Nikko Dizon

SEN. RODOLFO BIAZON YESTERDAY said Malacañang should take seriously a warning that disgruntled soldiers could stage a mutiny and spark a civil war, noting that the allegations of hefty bribes could fuel unrest among troops still awaiting a promised combat pay increase.

Maj. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, Philippine Marine commandant, on Tuesday said allegations lawmakers and local officials received bribes of up to P500,000 in Malacañang in the midst of a fresh initiative to impeach Presi-

MALACAÑANG/A18

DOJ chief sees nothing wrong with Palace cash gift

By Leila B. Salaverria and Beverly T. Natividad

ACTING JUSTICE SECRETARY Agnes Devanadera does not see anything illegal in the cash handouts given to lawmakers and local officials after a meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang and finds no ground for anybody's prosecution.

Devanadera told the INQUIRER on Tuesday night that the source of the money had not been traced and no unlawful reason for gifts had been established.

None of those who got the money said they had been asked to do something illegal in return, she said.

"Not per se illegal," Devanadera said when asked if the giving of cash was against the law, but she added that she was not aware of the circumstances surrounding the event.

"The element of any crime, would be for example, I am giving the money to bribe. But nobody has said this," she said.

Asked if the giving of money in Malacañang constituted an

DOJ CHIEF/A18

3 million expected to 'Stand Up, Speak Out' in fight against poverty

By Tina G. Santos, Kenneth M. del Rosario and Vincent Cabreza

SOME 2,000 FILIPINOS, INCLUDING government officials, teachers, students and soldiers, yesterday joined a global campaign to end poverty by standing up and making a symbolic pledge at the Rizal Park in Manila.

They pledged to reject not only excuses that allow 50,000 people to die every day because of extreme poverty but also the growing gap between the rich and the poor.

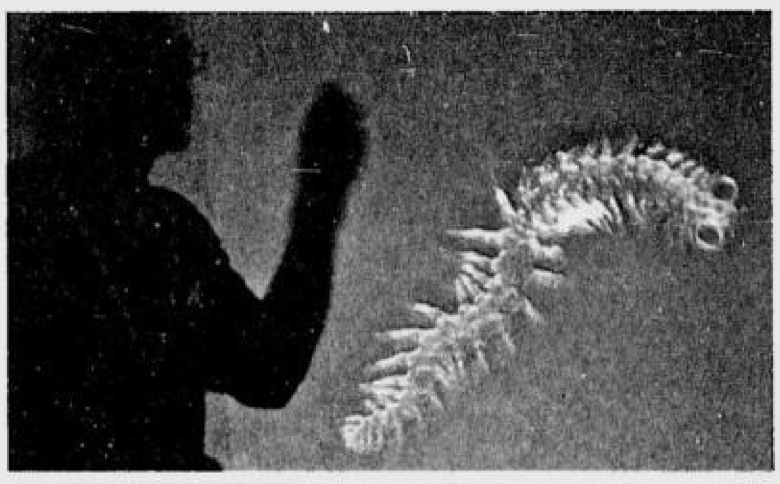
They also urged government leaders to govern fairly, fight corruption and fulfill human rights.

Many of them wore white wristbands with sketches of multicolored human figures.

Organizers in the country expected three million people to stand up and make the pledge—in parks, government and private offices, schools, hospitals, restaurants—around the country from 5 a.m. to midnight last night.

An auditing firm will do a head count and hopefully, a record of sorts will be established for possible submission to the Guinness Book of

3 MILLION/A10



CELEBES SEA WORM
Dr. Larry Madin presents a worm-like species that is yet to get a scientific name during a briefing aboard the BRP Presbitero off Manila Bay on Wednesday.

EDWIN BACASMA

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2007

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Second FRONTPAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers while Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Roxas	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Mostly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Mostly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/10/17/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

EZ2
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FOUR DIGIT
5 1 7 6
(In exact order)

Mid-Day **SUERTRES** Evening
5 5 6 | 2 7 5

MEGALOTTO 6/45
6 13 21 29 30 35
₱14,385,700.80

'Speaker' rings nice to Nograles

By Christian V. Esguerra

NOGRALES

SPEAKER PROSPERO NOGRALES.

The veteran lawmaker from Davao City likes the sound of this reference to himself amid speculations that President Macapagal-Arroyo is making moves to unseat House Speaker Jose de Venecia.

However, Nograles said that he would not want to be in the shoes of De Venecia, who is seen to be in conflict with Malacañang purportedly over his son's disclosures about bribery in the national broadband network project.

"I know I'm just being played in this speakership issue," he said in Filipino at a forum in Quezon City yesterday.

"But you know, it feels good to hear it," he said.

Floated

Nograles said he knew that his name—as well as those of three deputy speakers and Majority Leader Arthur Defensor—was being floated as a possible replacement for De Venecia.

Asked if this was being done to foment unrest in the majority coalition, he said: "We've been in politics for so long. We can see through that kind of motive and we will not fall for it."

Nograles said De Venecia was going through the "sorrowful mystery" of his political career and was "agonizing every minute of the day."

"I don't want to be in his shoes because it's very difficult," he told reporters after the forum.

He noted that De Venecia's decisions now have to consider his relationship with his son, Joey, and with the President, the chair of the Lakas-CMD of which De Venecia is president.

"The decision will have to be personal to him. All of these factors have to be taken in," Nograles said.

If Joe quits

The congressman said a new Speaker would be chosen only if De Venecia agrees to step down. If that happens, the position can be assumed by a member of Lakas-CMD because it is the dominant party in the ruling coalition.

The Lakas leadership has reiterated this to the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), the President's party, a faction of which is said to be seeking De Venecia's ouster, he said.

"We told our Kampi allies that the speakership is [only for] Lakas. If [a new speaker] comes at all, it will not come from another party. It will come from Lakas," he said.

JDV admits 'pressure' in impeachment referral

By Norman Bordadora
and Christian V. Esguerra

DE VENECIA

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA yesterday admitted he was "pressured" in the presence of President Macapagal-Arroyo to refer to the House committee on justice the weak impeachment complaint filed against her which effectively protected her from a stronger case for one year.

De Venecia said the five deputy speakers, Majority Leader Arthur Defensor of Iloilo and Senior Deputy Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II were of the consensus that he should refer the complaint to preserve "spirit and the integrity of the coalition."

An impeachment complaint once referred to the committee on justice bars any other such complaint against the same official for a year.

"I told them that if that's what they want, somebody else should do it," De Venecia said in a telephone interview.

He said Deputy Speakers Raul Del Mar of Cebu, Simeon Datumanong of Maguindanao, Eric Singson of Ilocos Sur and Amelita Villarosa of Mindoro Occidental; and the majority leaders had agreed that the President has to be protected from a stronger complaint as she goes about the business of governance.

"That's right. She's fighting the MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front), residual elements of the MNLF (Moro National Liberation Front) and the NPA (New People's Army). She's looking after the economy and it's good that we've made (economic) strides recently," De Venecia said.

De Venecia said Ms Arroyo was quiet the whole time that the options on what to do with the complaint were being discussed.

He said he saw no sign of disappointment in her when he stood pat on his decision not to refer the weak complaint filed by lawyer Roel Pulido and endorsed by Laguna Rep. Edgar San Luis.

"No. Because the alternative compromise was immediately achieved," De Venecia said, referring to the group's decision that he would just take a leave of absence and have Del Mar refer the complaint as acting speaker.

De Venecia said that contrary to reports that Ms Arroyo told her to take a leave so a deputy can refer the complaint, it was he who offered the option.

Last week, De Venecia decided to inhibit himself from the Pulido complaint and allowed Del Mar to refer the complaint.

Asked if he was not concerned about the need to protect Ms Arroyo as well from a stronger impeach try, he said: "My first obligation was to the first complaint. I had to make a decision. Congress was about to end."

De Venecia said he didn't want to refer the complaint because it was attended by alleged bribery and he wanted the allegations to be looked into first.

Reached for comment, Defensor said it was not the consensus of the coalition leaders to immunize Ms Arroyo from a stronger impeachment complaint.

"We agreed that it is the highest interest of the coalition that the impeachment be referred to the committee on rules for subsequent referral to the committee on justice," he added.

"The leadership, especially Speaker De Venecia, will also be suspect why he is not transmitting. The Speaker may be seen as waiting for a stronger complaint against the President," Defensor said.

The relationship between Ms Arroyo and De Venecia has reportedly been strained after the Speaker's son and namesake accused the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, in a Senate hearing of telling him to "back off" from the national broadband network project in favor of a Chinese firm.

The allegations fanned speculations that Ms Arroyo's allies in the House were plotting De Venecia's ouster and that De Venecia, in turn, was planning her impeachment.

De Venecia yesterday said he would "do the right thing at the proper time" in the event the opposition proceeded with a new and "genuine" impeachment complaint against the President.

But Nograles believed that De Venecia would not "sleep with the enemy," adding that those cooking up the new complaint were out only to use the Speaker.

"The Speaker is a seasoned politician and too politically astute to fall for that kind of trap," Nograles said.

But De Venecia has not slammed the door on the United Opposition's new impeachment complaint.

"We will make our move when we reach the bridge," he said. "I don't know what they are thinking of. It will depend on the charges, what they intend to achieve."

Why Joe's lukewarm to GMA's Cha-cha bid

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE FAILURE OF HIS PREVIOUS EFFORTS to amend the Charter could be the reason behind Speaker Jose De Venecia's seemingly lukewarm reception to President Macapagal-Arroyo's move to revive the Charter change initiative, a De Venecia ally said yesterday.

"He got burned in his Charter change advocacy that's why there's trauma as well," Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles told reporters after a forum in Quezon City.

Nograles said the Speaker felt that the new drive would again put him at the forefront and would only solicit negative reactions as in the past.

"He gave everything we had, nothing happened," he said, referring to failed moves to amend the 1987 Constitution during the 13th Congress. Nograles was then the majority leader.

In the latest Cha-cha initiative—a clear drive toward federalism—De Venecia had said he was sticking to his position of a yearlong moratorium on any constitutional amendments to allow the Arroyo administration to focus on the economy.

He said the proposed move toward federalism could be discussed during the first quarter of 2008.

Nograles said there was nothing surprising in the fresh Malacañang initiative, saying the President already laid the groundwork when she divided the country into "super regions."

"When you divide (the country) into super regions, that means you will concentrate on the super regions and then make them independent to be able to sustain themselves," he explained.

The influential Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) is likewise lukewarm to Cha-cha.

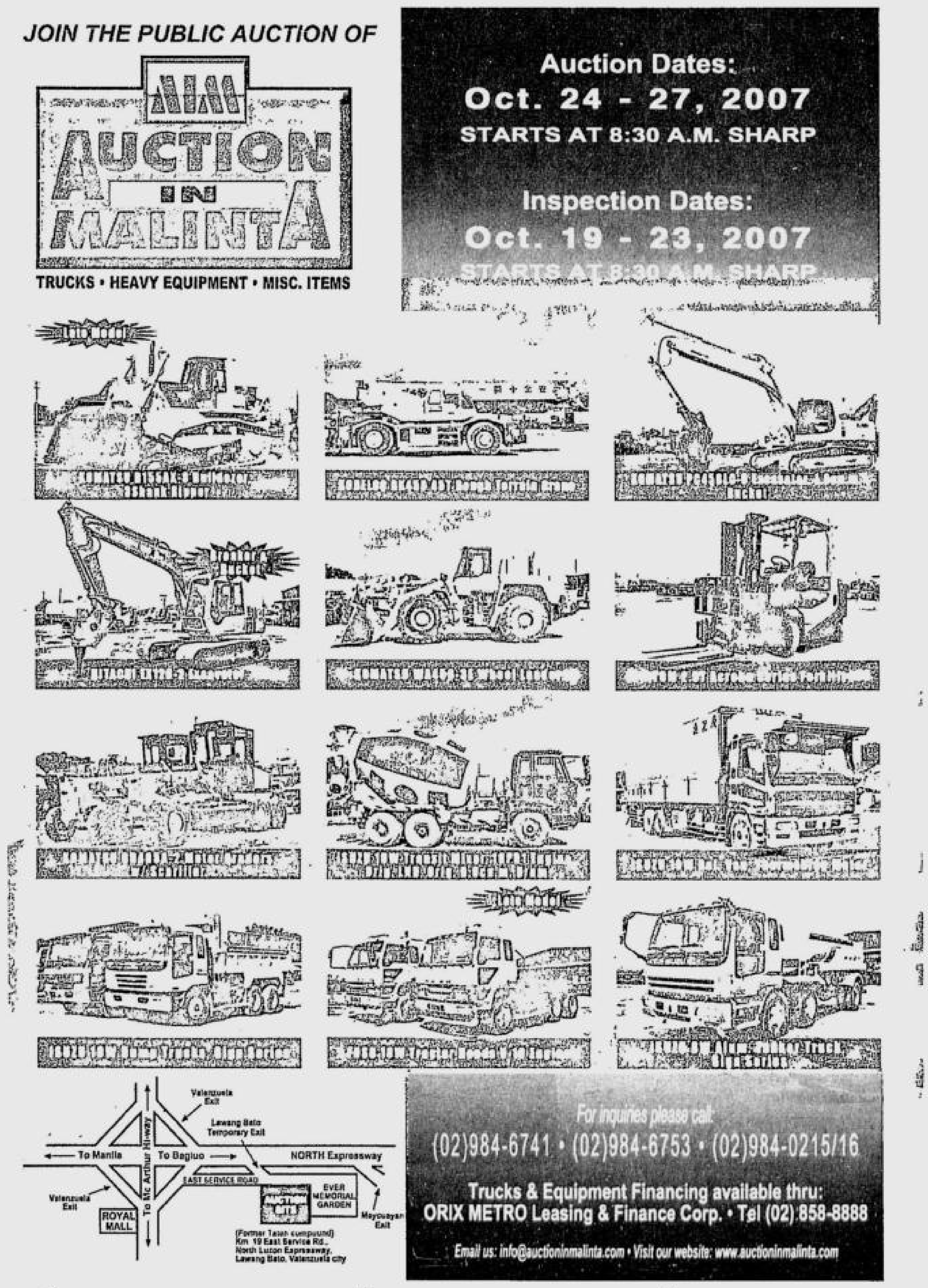
CBCP spokesperson Msgr. Pedro Quitorio said in an interview that, with all the problems hounding the administration, this is not the time to push for Charter change.

"You know the administration is saddled with so many problems that even involves doubting its credibility. Why will you push for something as substantial as Charter change?" said Quitorio.

Quitorio pointed out that while questions over the national broadband network (NBN) deal have remained unanswered, the administration is again under fire for allegedly bribing regional and local officials.

Quitorio said the administration should put to rest these corruption issues first before dealing with Charter change.

With a report from Beverly T. Natividad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Pope names PPCRV head to Vatican body

POPE BENEDICT XVI HAS APPOINTED Henrietta de Villa, national chair of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) to the Pontifical Council Cor Unum, one of the departments of the Pope's cabinet at the Vatican.

De Villa, who was appointed as consultor on Oct. 11, is the first Filipino appointee to the elite Vatican council.

A statement by election watchdog PPCRV said yesterday that De Villa's appointment will last for a period of five years.

Prior to this appointment, De Villa was appointed to the Pontifical Council for the Laity in 1990 to 1995. In October 2005, she was also appointed by Pope Benedict XVI as the only Asian laywoman auditrix to the Synod on the Eucharist.

The Pontifical Council Cor Unum is part of the Roman Curia or the cabinet of the Vatican state. De Villa will be one of the Council's nine consultors.

The Cor Unum council was established by Pope Paul VI in 1971 with a specific mission to care for the needy by encouraging human fellowship and making manifest Christ's charity. The council then carries out humanitarian relief operations in the event of disasters.

De Villa is expected to attend the Cor Unum's XXVII Plenary Assembly on Feb. 28 to March 1, 2008 in Rome.

Beverly T. Natividad

A life long-lived, a life well-lived

Salamat sa Maykapal, sa tulong ni doktor at sa alagang binibigay ng Pfizer Patient Care Program.

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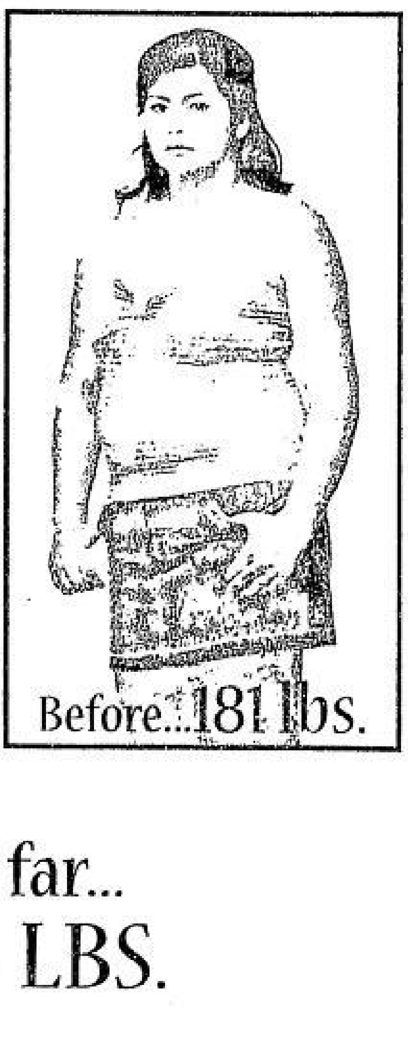
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Correction

IN THE OCT. 16 ISSUE, a front-page headline—"Bishop warns ex-priest on accepting Palace cash"—erroneously described Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio as a former priest. When Panlilio filed his candidacy, he was suspended from performing priestly duties, but he remains a priest.

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'MOCKERY OF SENATE RULES'

Cayetano asked to quit Blue Ribbon

SEN. JAMBY MADRIGAL HAS ACcused Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano of intimidating businessman Jose de Venecia III by letting the Blue Ribbon committee staff interrogate the star witness of the national broadband network deal behind closed doors.

Madrigal called on Cayetano to resign or for Senate President Manny Villar to discipline the chair of the Blue Ribbon or the committee on accountability of public officers and investigations.

"No notice was sent by the committee to its members. This makes a mockery of Senate rules. Was this done deliberately to persecute and intimidate Mr. Joey de Venecia for telling the truth? Never before in the history of the Senate have we seen such blatant disregard of the rules," said Madrigal in a text message.

CAYETANO

MADRIGAL

Madrigal questioned Cayetano's decision to hold De Venecia's appearance before the technical working group of the committee outside media glare claiming that other senators were never consulted.

Sen. Francis Escudero had previously criticized Cayetano's move, saying that only executive sessions with all senators present could be held behind closed doors.

Madrigal said that the incident has further bolstered allegations that a businessman close to Malacañang had pressured Villar and Cayetano to suspend indefinitely the ZTE-NBN hearing. Cayetano had been criticized for allowing the hearing to lapse into a month-long lull after the first four hearings that were highly anticipated by the public hooked on the unraveling corruption scandal.

"I strongly encourage Senator Cayetano to resign as chair of the Blue Ribbon committee. I challenge Senator Villar to exercise his leadership and discipline Senator Cayetano for conducting this bogus proceedings," said Madrigal.

The issue of closed door sessions in the Senate has become controversial in view of reports that Sen. Joker Arroyo had stopped Committee on Higher Education Chair Romulo Neri from spilling the beans further on President Macapagal-Arroyo's participation in the NBN project.

Mga atraso ni Erap
kay bilis naman nating makalimot...

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Court gives Erap overnight leave

CONVICTED PLUNDERER EX-President Joseph Estrada finally managed to wangle an overnight court pass from the Sandiganbayan, which will allow him to stay by the bedside of his ailing mother from today.

Though he requested for two nights, Estrada was happy to accept what the court granted as it would give him more time with his 102-year-old mother, Mary Ejercito.

"At least I can be with her longer. You know how her situation is, anytime she can go," Estrada said in a phone interview.

In his past two visits with his mother at the San Juan Medical Center, Estrada was only given the usual 10-hour court pass. But yesterday, the court granted Estrada an overnight leave from his rest house arrest.

It also allowed Estrada to attend the 9 a.m. hearing at the Sandiganbayan tomorrow during which his lawyers will present oral arguments for their motion asking the court to reverse its decision convicting Estrada of plunder and sentencing him up to 40 years in jail.

The court instructed the police and the Sandiganbayan Sheriff to transport Estrada to the hospital at 7 a.m. today and then take him to his Polk St. residence later tonight.

After the hearing on Friday, Estrada will be taken back to the hospital where he will stay with his mother until 5 p.m. Immediately after, the convicted President is to be returned to his place of detention in Tanay, Rizal, the court ordered.

Jocelyn R. Uy

The JCI SENATE PHILIPPINES and the DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH in cooperation with the PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION present

PhilHealth
Your Partner in Health

SALUTE TO THE WORLD-CLASS PINOY DOCTORS!
at the Fiesta Pavillion, Manila Hotel, 7:00 PM October 28, 2007

This award is opportunity to elebrate the excellence, compassion and heroism of our Filipino physicians. Personally having a mother as a physician, it is an opportunity to acknowledge the admirable proficiency of our doctors. This award has proven and showed the world-class status of our Filipino doctors.

To the winners of this year's maiden search, I congratulate you for your outstanding achievements. Your commitment and dedication to your profession have great impact on the lives of our fellowmen. Our whole country benefit because of the good reputation of Filipino doctors all over the world, more so, because of the medical work that directly serve the people of the Philippines.

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

In spite of the opportunities that abound elsewhere outside the country, many of our precious Filipino medical doctors have decided to stay in the Philippines in the service of fellow Filipinos. It is their love for their noble calling and discipline that they opted to render service to fellow Filipinos to provide them better health and longer life.

As we recognize the winners of the maiden search of "The Outstanding Filipino Physician Awards" (T.O.F.P.) for 2007, the JCI Senate Philippines sets the tone in expressing gratitude to the Filipino Physicians with heroic deeds worthy of emulation and praise

Indeed, the 5th and 6th tenets of the JCI Creed: "That earth's great treasure lies in human personality" and, "That service to humanity is the best work of life," are conspicuously radiated by the personality and deeds of the T.O.F.P. winners.

JCI SEN. SENEN P. QUIAMBAO
President, JCISP

Filipino doctors are among the best in the world!

In fact, we are probably the second largest doctor professionals in the United States and other developed countries have acknowledged in countless ways that our doctors are really very professional, competent, have excellent bedside manners, good rapport with patients and patients' relatives and very well-trained. Most of these doctors were trained in the United States and actually passed their very stringent qualifying examinations.

The Department of Health, through its corporate arm the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), will make sure that the T.O.F.P. started with the JCI Senate Philippines this year will be institutionalized to further inspire Filipino doctors to love their country more and be more dedicated in serving their countrymen.

DR. FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III
Secretary of Health & TOFP Honorary Chairman

In behalf of Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, we would like to thank the JCI Senate Philippines, Inc., for inviting us in this worthy undertaking for the nationwide search for "The Outstanding Filipino Physician."

We are one with you in congratulating and acknowledging our Filipino physicians who have proven their integrity and have shown their unwavering dedication to the medical profession in uplifting public welfare.

LORNA O. FAJARDO
President, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation

The Outstanding Filipino Physician

Logo design by Michelle Cabrera of Media Touchstone Ventures, Inc.

True to the adage: "No Pain, No Gain," the dedicated members of the T.O.F.P. Committee painstakingly labored for eight (8) months and made T.O.F.P. the success that it is today, in spite of the budgetary constraints, the lack of manpower and the need to travel thousands of miles.

The noble objective of TOFP is to help reverse the medical brain drain in the country by giving due recognition to the best Filipino doctors with heroic deeds - those who have decided to spend the best of their professional lives in the country and in the service of our beloved countrymen.

JCI SEN. MARS PINEDA
Chairman, TOFP

The TOFP maiden search was officially launched last April 26, 2007 at the Lung Center of the Philippines by the Junior Chamber International (JCI) Senate Philippines and the Department of Health.

Among TOFP's major objectives include: 1) arresting the prevailing medical brain drain in the Philippines; 2) paying tribute and honor to outstanding physicians who serve their countrymen well amidst the lucrative and tempting opportunities abroad; and, 3) promoting the Jaycee tenet that 'service to humanity is the best work of life' as exemplified by our Filipino physicians who render their selfless medical service in the service of humanity. Recent studies show that seventy percent (70%) of doctors are already working abroad and almost eighty five percent (85%) of the Philippines' health practitioners are already overseas.

For the maiden search, about 3,000 letters and nomination forms and posters were mailed and distributed nationwide backed up by several publicity drives in the national and provincial media. Text and phone brigades were also used to disseminate the TOFP Search.

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth) came on board as corporate sponsor last August 22, 2007.

Last September 7, about 72 nominees and bid books were received by the TOFP Search Committee. Out of the 72 entries/nominees, only 37 passed the screening process and 19 finalists were endorsed to the Board of Judges, which selected only five awardees.

ORLINA TROPHY

Ramon G. Orlina, a multi-awarded glass sculptor, designed the TOFP trophy. Orlina's reputation extends to art circles and patrons in Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Japan, U.S.A. and the former Czechoslovakia. He has been conferred two prestigious ASEAN Awards in the field of Visual Arts and recently in 2006 he was bestowed The Outstanding Filipino (TOFIL) Award for having led a life of excellence in the field of Arts and having contributed immensely to public welfare and national development.

The Orlina sculpture trophy for The Outstanding Physician Award is steeped in symbolism. A circular rim made of cold cast marble with bronze finish holds within it a ball made of solid transparent glass in the signature green hue of Orlina.

The circle is a symbol of completeness and wholeness. It also represents the heart of humanity, the seed or the womb where life begins. The life cycle, of life and death, is symbolized in the circle. Where there is life, the physician is there to heal, to prevent sickness and promote a sense of wholeness and well-being.

The glass ball and its green color symbolize the earth. Etched on it are the popular medical symbols of the caduceus, the DNA and heartbeats to represent the practice of medicine which is now global because a patient can seek treatment in any part of the world, in the same way a physician can treat and diagnose a patient anywhere through modern means of communication.

This trophy represents excellence and commitment of a physician in his chosen field of medicine.

"Service to humanity is the best work of life."

THE TOFP FIVE BEST PINOY DOCTORS

Dr. CHARLOTTE CHIONG

From pioneering surgical procedures like bilateral cochlear implantation and middle ear implantation, DR. CHARLOTTE CHIONG has certainly put her country at the forefront of the subspecialty of otology and neurotology among its Asian neighbors.

The researches done on newborn hearing screening, which she started in 2000, has won recognition and publication awards from various international agencies.

Dr. ENRIQUE ONA

His peers, both here and abroad, acknowledge Dr. ENRIQUE ONA as one of the top surgeons in the field of vascular surgery and organ implantation, as well as being a dedicated advocate for preventive nephrology in the Philippines.

He has consistently shown leadership qualities even as a young surgeon. His outstanding achievements in the field of vascular and transplant surgery earned him "The Outstanding Young Men (T.O.Y.M.)" Award in medicine for 1979.

Dr. WILLIE ONG

His advocacy on the medical "brain drain" has been featured in Reader's Digest Asia, The Lancet, and The Associated Press and in various local newspapers and television stations.

DR. WILLIE ONG is a cardiologist, columnist, book author, television host and advocate for encouraging health workers to stay in the Philippines.

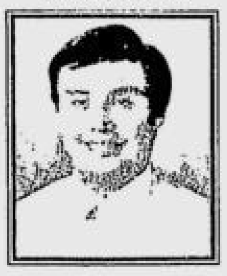
In 2004, together with the Philippine College of Physicians, he started the "Doctor's Covenant," which asks physicians to stay for at least three years in their mother country. The Covenant garnered 1,800 signatures from specialist doctors.

Dr. CARMENCITA PADILLA

She is an outstanding public servant whose personal and professional contributions as a physician, scholar, researcher and administrator have been vital to the advancement of science and medicine in the Philippines.

In the field of science and health, DR. CARMENCITA PADILLA is noted for her major contributions to the country with the establishment of Genetic Services (clinical, laboratory and research) and the introduction and institutionalization of Newborn Screening Services.

Dr. ERIC TALENS



He is distinguished as an exponent of "volunteerism among Filipino doctors" and the first fellow in Trauma Surgery in the country. Practicing General and Trauma Surgery, DR. ERIC TALENS has won several faculty awards as well as recognition for his research activities, from local and international fora.

With his prolific research output, he has published numerous scientific papers in peer-reviewed national, as well as international journals. Because of this, he has been invited as editor in various national and international journals, and has also been asked to judge various research paper contests in the Philippines and abroad.

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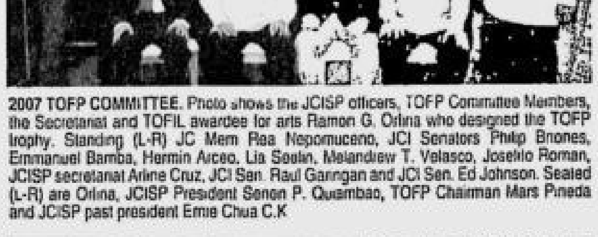
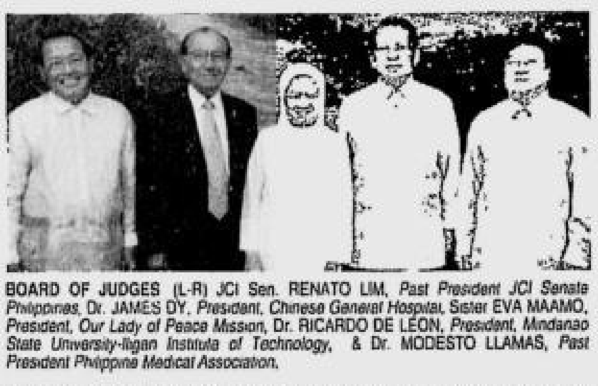


2007 TOFP COMMITTEE. Photo shows the JCISP officers, TOFP Committee Members, the Secretariat and TOFIL awardee for arts Ramon G. Orlina who designed the TOFP trophy. Standing (L-R) JC Mem Rea Nepomuceno, JCI Senators Philip Briones, Emmanuel Bamba, Hermin Arceo, Lia Seelin, Melandrew T. Velasco, Joselito Roman, JCISP secretariat Arline Cruz, JCI Sen. Raul Garingan and JCI Sen. Ed Johnson. Seated (L-R) are Orlina, JCISP President Senen P. Quiambao, TOFP Chairman Mars Pineda and JCISP past president Ernie Chua C.K



BOARD OF JUDGES (L-R) JCI Sen. RENATO LIM, *Past President JCI Senate Philippines*, Dr. JAMES DY, *President, Chinese General Hospital*, Sister EVA MAAMO, *President, Our Lady of Peace Mission*, Dr. RICARDO DE LEON, *President, Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology*, & Dr. MODESTO LLAMAS, *Past President Philippine Medical Association*.

Not in the photo: Dr. ALBERTO ROXAS, *Dean UP College of Medicine*, Dr. MADELEINE RIVERA, *Vice-President PhilHealth*, Dr. MARIO VILLAVERDE, *Assistant Secretary, Department of Health*

Ad concept and design by Media Touchstone Ventures, Inc.

SANTIAGO

Miriam wants to campaign for int'l court on 'official mission'

By Dona Pazzibugan

SEN. MIRIAM DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO has asked to be excused from her Senate duties for a year to concentrate on her campaign to sit as a member of the International Court of Justice based in Geneva, Switzerland.

But she wants to be listed as "on official mission."

She told Senate President Manuel Villar she would need to go to various countries in the course of the campaign which will run for a year, from October 2007 to November 2008.

For starters, she said she would be abroad from Oct. 31 to Nov. 7 so she could deliver a speech during the International Law Week of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

"In addition, the Philippine Mission to the United Nations will host some three mini-diplomatic receptions for me so that I can meet personally with the ambassadors of various member states to the UN," Santiago told Villar in an Oct. 7 letter.

While her Senate term will end in 2010, Santiago has set her eyes on being nominated to the ICJ in 2009.

She chairs the crucial Senate foreign relations committee that is deliberating on the proposed treaty, Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa).

She also chairs the important Senate energy committee.

"This is to request official permission to campaign in various countries abroad, which logically follows my nomination to the International Court of Justice, recently announced by President Arroyo," Santiago's letter read.

"I shall be sending subsequent letters for similar permission in the course of the campaign, which will run for one year, from October 2007 to November 2008. Accordingly, I request that during the period of my absence from the Senate, I should be marked "On Official Mission," she went on.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, October 18, 2007
Luke, Evangelist

1st Reading:	2 Tim 4:10-17
Gospel:	Luke 10:1-9

The Lord appointed seventy-two other disciples and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place, where he himself was to go. And he said to them, "The harvest is rich, but the workers are few. So you must ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers to his harvest. Courage! I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Set off without purse or bag or sandals; and do not stop at the homes of those you know.

"Whatever house you enter, first bless them saying: 'Peace to this house.' If a friend of peace lives there, the peace shall rest upon that person. But if not, the blessing will return to you. Stay in that house eating and drinking at their table, for the worker deserves to be paid. Do not move from house to house.

"When they welcome you in any town, eat what they offer you. Heal the sick who are there and say to them: 'The kingdom of God has drawn near to you.'"

Commentary

Luke has stayed with Paul while others have left him and he asks Timothy to come and join them and bring Mark along too (they were friends in the work of the Lord). Poor Paul complains about others and his case in court. He says that everyone abandoned him, and yet Luke remained with him. Luke was an evangelist, a preacher and missionary, a leader in the early church, a companion to those in ministry, and a good friend it seems.

Luke's gospel speaks of a community that goes out in twos to preach and to bring in the harvest that the Lord has created in others' hearts. They are people dedicated to being a radical presence of the kingdom of God—where all are taken care of and everyone relies on the hospitality of one another. This is image of our God who is hospitable to us in Jesus and the Spirit. The message is that of peace—the peace of the Risen Lord, the peace of forgiveness and new life, the peace of the reign of God—justice, mercy, and initiation into the life of God in Jesus. Luke left the Word of the Lord as his best gift to the early church and to believers for all time.

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60,000 sign 'Desperate' petition

THE ONLINE PETITION AGAINST the ABC Studio's "Desperate Housewives" for insulting Philippine medical schools generated at least 60,000 signatures in a week, prompting officials of the US TV network to meet with leaders of the Filipino-American community, according to Willy Gaa, the ambassador to the US.

Gaa, who was elated by the "swift, strong and unified response" from the Filipino American community, said public outrage against the offending episode in the popular TV show came in the form of protest letters, an online petition, media interviews, press statements and rallies.

ABC Studios earlier issued an apology for the disparaging remarks against Philippine-trained medical professionals and practitioners in a Sept. 30 episode of its "Desperate Housewives" TV show.

The apology, made last Oct. 4, was followed by a dialogue between a senior vice president of ABC and leaders and representatives from the Filipino-American community.

Gaa said that during the dialogue, the community leaders presented ways by which ABC can counter the harm created by the incident, such as removing or reediting the offending episode.

On Oct. 9, Consul General Mary Jo Aragon of the Philippine Consulate General of Los Angeles reported that Charissa Gilmore, ABC Studios' vice president for media relations, had called to inform her that the offending segment was being edited and that a new version of the episode without the remarks was being developed.

Gaa said that ABC Studios had also removed the episode from digital platforms such as abc.com and iTunes until a new version is available.

"I am impressed by the speed and effectiveness in which the community has come together on this issue," Gaa said.

He said the disparaging remarks in the episode were "an offense against the dignity and abilities of our people and our community, especially those who worked so hard to establish solid reputations in the field of medicine and healthcare."

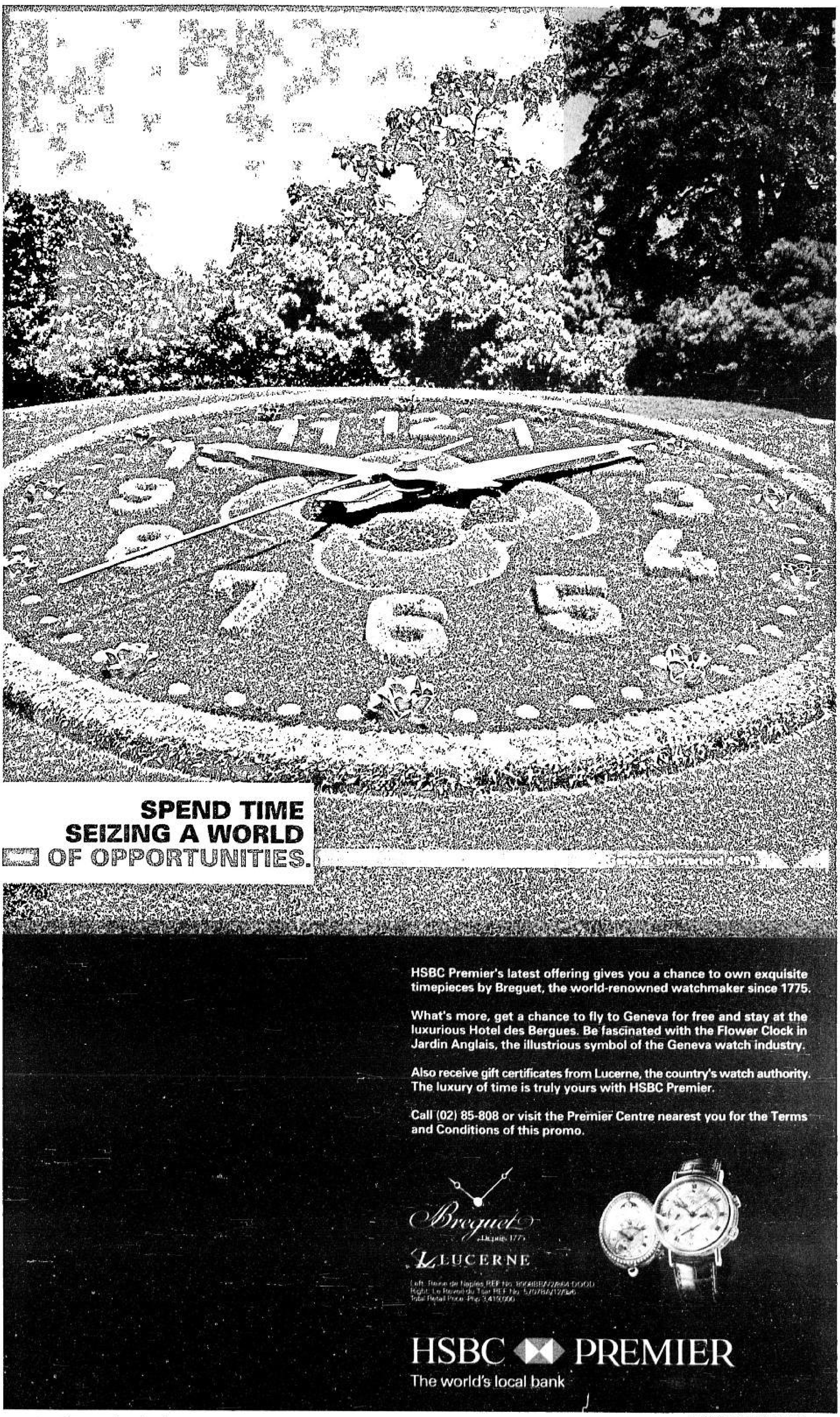
Cynthia D. Balana

Gov't, MILF close to accord–GMA

By Franklin A. Caliguid
Inquirer Mindanao

BUTUAN CITY—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo said yesterday the government was close to inking a final peace agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the biggest remaining secessionist group in Mindanao.

In a speech here, the President reported that the peace agreement was already in sight, crediting this to the "optimism" of both the government and MILF negotiating panels to overcome the most contentious issue on ancestral domain.



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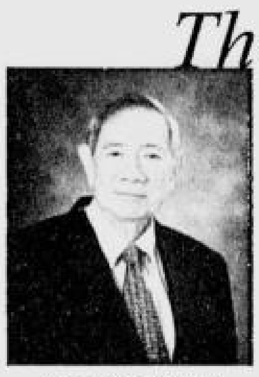
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Senior citizens entitled to discount in private clubs? DSWD to decide

By Leila B. Salaverria

IS THE MANDATED 20 percent senior citizen's discount applicable in private golf and country clubs?

The Department of Justice thinks it could be. But in an opinion issued yesterday, it left the decision to the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

The DSWD can decide how it wants to interpret and implement the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003 since it was mandated under the law to issue the implementing rules and regulations, said Acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera.

The DOJ, however, believes the 20 percent discount to senior citizens under the expanded law could apply to private establishments, including golf and country clubs.

Devanadera cited provisions in the implementing rules and regulations of the expanded law that state that "establishments" refer to public or private entities licensed or franchised by the government, and that senior citizens are entitled to discounts on goods and services from all establishments, including recreation centers.

Discount

Another provision states that the senior citizen's discount in recreation centers should be given in the utilization of services in the form of fees, charges and rental facilities.

DSWD Secretary Esperanza Cabral had asked the DOJ for an opinion after she received a complaint from a one senior citizen who said he was denied a 20 percent discount from Valley Golf, among others. The complainant said the golf club maintained that the law only applied to golf clubs "open to the general public."

Devanadera clarified that it was not for the justice department to rule for or against decisions of other government departments.

She also said that since the issue involved the substantive rights of private parties, the DOJ opinion would not bind them. They could bring the issue to the courts.

As the government agency primarily responsible for the implementation, administration and enforcement of this law, the DSWD should assume responsibility for whatever decision it takes," Devanadera said.

The original Senior Citizen's Act limited the mandatory discount for citizen's above 60 years old to those with an annual income less than P60,000. It was intended for use in drugstores, hospitals, groceries and restaurants. The Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003 (RA [illegible] amending RA 7532) removed the income limit and expanded its coverage.

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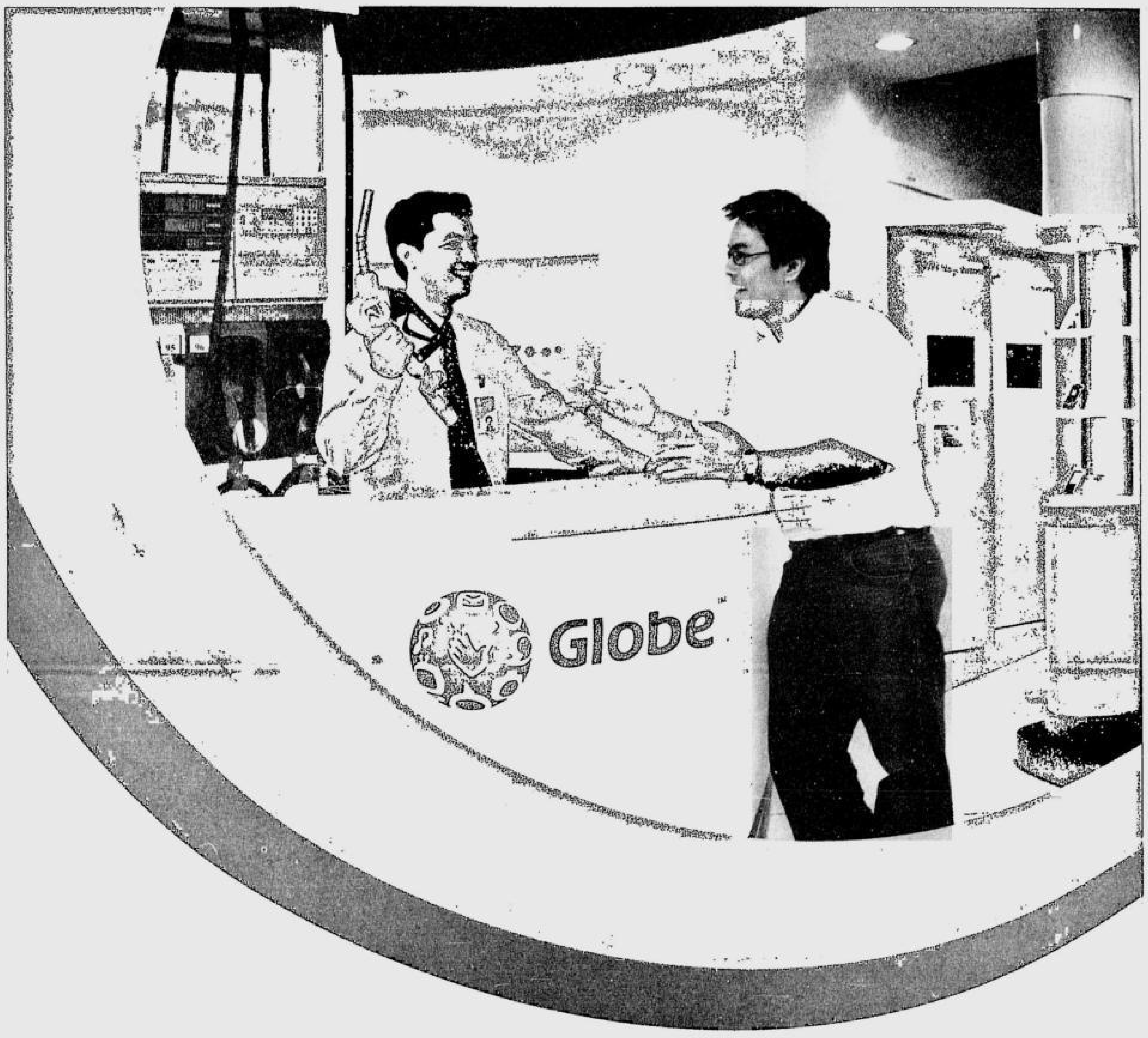

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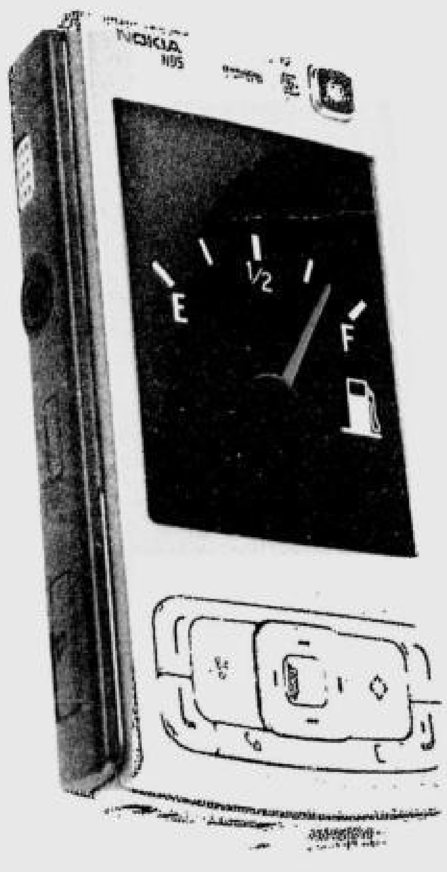

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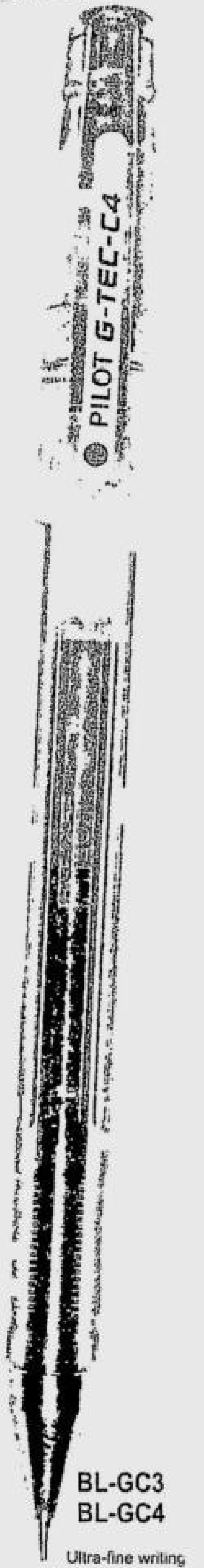

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Court-martial clears 4 in Oakwood mutiny

A MILITARY TRIBUNAL CLEARED THREE young Army officers and a Navy ensign yesterday of any role in a failed mutiny against President Macapagal-Arroyo four years ago.

Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Legaspi, head of a seven-member tribunal, said there was insufficient evidence to link the four officers to the takeover of a high-rise apartment at the heart of Manila's financial center during a coup attempt in 2003.

Legaspi said two officers—Army Captain Francis Balan and Navy Ensign Ronald Paras—were freed and ordered to return to active duty after dropping charges against them for conduct unbecoming and failure to suppress mutiny.

The two other officers—Lieutenants Engelbert Gay and Andrin Baldonado—were also cleared of the same charges but were ordered to remain in detention pending resolution of other cases in another army tribunal.

"On account of having gone absent without official leave and conspiring with destabilizers, the accused will be prosecuted for a different offense before a different court," Legaspi said, reading an order.

All four were implicated in the failed coup after their names were found in a computer disk seized from about 300 soldiers who seized Oakwood Apartments in July 2003. They were not among those who took part in the actual mutiny.

About 80 officers and 200 enlisted men were court-martialled for the mutiny. A few dozen were cleared because they were found to have been misled into taking part.

In 2005, the enlisted personnel were freed from Army detention and restored to active service after they agreed to enter into plea-bargaining deals, accepting minor punishments.

In April 2007, 54 officers also agreed to similar deals and will be freed on Jan. 27 next year after serving their prison terms. But, they are deemed discharged dishonorably and will not be reinstated into active duty.

Twenty-nine officers, considered to be the leaders of the failed mutiny, are still facing charges in both civilian and military courts. Except for two officers, the rest have agreed to a deal to accept minor punishments and be discharged. *Reuters*

Schools to teach risks of smoking

INFORMATION ABOUT THE harmful effects of cigarette smoking will be integrated into the basic education curriculum, the Department of Education said.

DepEd Order 62 tasks the department to include the environmental and economic implications of smoking in the elementary and high school curricula.

"The entry points in the existing curriculum in both levels shall be identified by the Bureau of Elementary and Secondary Education to ensure integration into the different subjects," the DepEd order said.

It directs the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Special Projects to monitor strict compliance with the order.

Undersecretary Teodosio Sangil Jr. said the move is in line with government policy to "inform the public about the health risks of smoking and protect the youth from being initiated to cigarette smoking and use of other tobacco products."

He said the Constitution mandates the State to "protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."

The DepEd cited Department of Health statistics saying that at least three of every five Filipinos smoke and that a majority of smokers include adults and young people.

Health experts have said that smoking can cause lung cancer, stroke and other killer diseases.

The DepEd noted that the Philippines is a signatory to the United Nations Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, an international treaty on the ill-effects of smoking subscribed to by nearly 170 countries in 2003 in a global bid to stop the habit that reportedly kills almost five million people each year.

The DepEd earlier launched the Youth Smoking Prevention Program in accordance with RA 8749, or the Clean Air Act of 1999, which prohibits smoking and the sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products inside the campuses of public and private schools. *Jerry E. Esplanada*

Cebu firm in hot water over hoax

By Alcuin Papa

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) is investigating the liability of a Cebu company for circulating a hoax through e-mail and text messages warning of a street gang patrolling city streets and randomly killing motorists.

PNP deputy spokesman Supt. Rommel Miranda told reporters yesterday that unit in the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) with expertise in computer crimes is investigating Celestica Philippines which allegedly circulated the hoax through e-mail to its employees.

He said the PNP has not issued any warning on the roaming street gang, adding that there is no threat to motorists in Metro Manila.

The false warning emanated from e-mail messages circulating on the Internet which contained an attached file of a memorandum issued on Oct. 8, by Celestica to its employees.

The memo claimed that members of a street gang called "Bloods" drive around on Friday and Saturday nights attacking victims as part of the gang's initiation rites for new members. The memorandum also instructed Celestica employees to "share this information with all the drivers in your family."

According to Miranda, the PNP has not received any report of an incident as described in the supposed warning.

Celestica Philippines, thru its Senior Manager Jeoffrey Escala, e-mailed the PNP on Tuesday apologizing for the apparent indiscretion of issuing such an alarming but false notice to its employees.

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Ka Roger is alive, says CPP; lawmen doubt it

By Jaymee T. Gamil
Inquirer Southern Luzon

THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE Philippines released a statement Wednesday allegedly from the group's spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, saying he is "alive and fighting" contrary to military-instigated rumors that he had died from illness.

Military spokesmen, however, reacted to the press statement with disbelief. "He (Rosal) can do better than that," said police spokesman Samuel Pagdilao. The military challenged the communist leader to show himself and prove he was still alive.

In the CPP statement, Rosal said the rumor of his death was nothing but a lure for him to phone media personnel, making it possible for the military to locate him via electronic tracking.

"In the past, we found out that the Military Intelligence Group-2 had been cloning and closely monitoring the cellphones that we use," he wrote.

Rosal's statement said he would not fall for the bait, and condemned the army's "terror tactics" against civilians, particularly in Tagkawayan town and nearby areas in Quezon province, in their attempt to locate him.

It added that he would be issuing future press statements through the Internet.

In an interview with Lt. Colonel Frederick G. Deramos, commander of the 2nd AFP Civil Relations Group based in Camp Simeon Ola, the military admitted that they had no hard evidence Rosal was dead.

ROSAL

Chief Superintendent Pagdilao observed that the 59-year-old Rosal has been "very silent;" has not personally made any comments to reporters on the current controversies plaguing the Arroyo government.

"So it's either he has been gagged by the CPP leadership or it's really true that Ka Roger is very ill, or he has crossed over to another world," Pagdilao added.

Army spokesperson, Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres, sent this text message to reporters: "A Ka Roger that does not issue a verbal statement to the media is a dead Ka Roger."

This much, Torres said, is true: "It's been almost a year since we last heard him on the (news) radio, giving out statements."

Their once active and vocal enemy spokesperson has since limited his statements to printed releases.

Around two years ago, military intelligence reports said Rosal was spotted being carried out of a rebel area in a hammock. Police reports said he was spotted in Metro Manila's northern sector undergoing treatment at a hospital. Last month, reports circulated that Rosal had died due to an unknown illness. He had reportedly been suffering from asthma.

With reports from Alcuin Papa and Nikko Dizon

UP LOS BAÑOS HONORS ZUBIRI. Newly-elected Senator Juan Miguel " Migs" F. Zubiri (BS Agribusiness Management, Batch '90) was named as an outstanding Alumnus for bringing honor to the University of the Philippines Los Baños. The UPLB Alumni Association (UPLBAA) chose Zubiri for his nine-years of excellent performance in the House of Representatives and for winning a new mandate as a senator of the 14th Congress. The award was granted during the UPLB 89th Loyalty Day and Alumni Homecoming celebrations last week. Zubiri, also known as **"Mr. Biofuels"**, prioritizes legislations on environmental protection, improvement of agriculture, health, education, and jobs generation. With Zubiri are UPLB Chancellor Luis Rey Velasco, UP System VPres. For administration Dr. Arlene Samaniego and President of the UPLBAA Dr. Elpidio Rosario.

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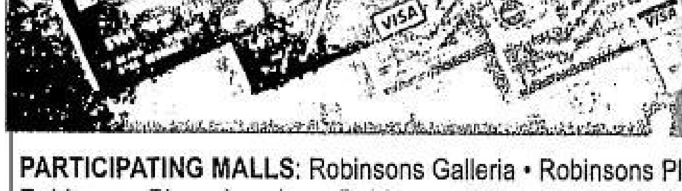

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"Hopefully, this will encourage our leaders to fulfill their promise," said Aleman.

Biggest headway

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China has made the biggest headway, with one in every three Chinese living in poverty in 1990, compared with one in every 10 today, the report said. But other countries were lagging behind, among them the Philippines, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

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In 1990, about 27 percent of Filipinos lived in extreme poverty—on less than P1,022 a month—but this has gone down to 17 percent, she said.

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Exhibit, rock concert

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"The government is feeding us with words and inaction perhaps because words are the only thing that the P41 per person can afford," Erning Ofracio, an urban poor, said at a forum attended by some 60 nongovernment organizations.

VETERAN Baguio City band "Binhi" performs for market vendors, porters and their children to draw support for this year's campaign against poverty on Wednesday. VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN L

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ght against poverty

war on hunger earlier this year proved to be ineffective, simply palliatives or band-aid solutions to worsening hunger and poverty," Nora Protacio, GCAP-Philippines Ambassador said in a statement.

She was reacting to a recent survey by Social Weather Stations, which showed that 21.5 percent of Filipinos had experienced involuntary hunger, the highest level recorded in the country.

Notes on dioramas

In Baguio City, everyone walking down Session Road caught a catchy note posted on wire-framed dioramas placed on Session Road on Tuesday.

The noted read "*Sana magutom din ang Presidente* (I hope the President starves)!"

It was one of many notes written by students, vendors, teachers and bank employees who interacted with Baguio artists on the eve of the annual Stand Up Against Poverty campaign.

On Tuesday, sculptor Kigao Rosimo, musician Shant Verdun and performance artist Rene Aquitania shaped ordinary wire into 15 human figures to represent the country's enduring war with poverty.

They covered the frames with colored plastic sheets to simulate stained glass, and installed the dioramas on Session Road.

Christmas wishes

The artists asked every one who walked by to post early Christmas wishes on the dioramas.

But people offered angry messages against President Macapagal-Arroyo because of various scandals that have embroiled her administration, Rosimo said.

Foremost among the issues discussed by pedestrians was the money that Malacañang allegedly had given local officials.

"That is cruel. The people are starving yet she is still capable of granting politicians favors," said a resident.

He wrote: "*Tama na! Sobra na! Alisin ang mga corrupt sa gobyerno!* (Enough! We've had it! Remove all corrupt officials from government)."

Another wrote: "*Sana matugunan ng residente ang hinaing ng mga mahihirap* (I wish the President can finally address the complaint of our poor people)."

The National Statistical Coordination Board has classified about 50 percent of Cordillera farming families as poor.

Innabuyog, the Cordillera affiliate of the party-list group Gabriela, said sharp increases in Cordillera malnutrition, which was noted this year by the government, confirmed that most poverty-alleviation projects have failed.

The Tuesday event led to a major concert yesterday at the Baguio City Public Market where country western musicians were to be joined by 500 porters who would speak out against poverty.

JDV calls on GMA to set up new administration

By Norman Bordadora

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA JR. yesterday called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to set up a virtually new administration made up of young and competent persons to cleanse "government and society" of corruption.

De Venecia made the call a day after the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines decried the "moral bankruptcy" in the government and called on local officials to admit having received money from the Palace.

"It must be credible. It must be a fairly large-scale and credible overhaul," De Venecia told the INQUIRER when asked what would be the minimum factor in the anti-graft program that he had in mind and was wishing the President would adopt.

He said his idea of a government of "moral revolution" would be contained in a letter he would present to Ms Arroyo next week.

According to the Speaker, whose longtime relations with the President have been severely strained, what is needed is "a new government made up of competent men with integrity."

But when asked if he had certain persons in mind, he said: "I can't mention names. People might say that I'm lobbying for them."

He said an "impartial body" could suggest to the President who among her present officials should go and who should replace them.

In a statement, De Venecia backed his remarks with a proposal to increase the Office of the Ombudsman's budget by 50 percent.

"[This is] to bolster its investigative powers," he said.

He also reiterated an earlier proposal to subsidize political parties "to reduce political corruption."

"It's the drug lords and the gambling lords, the *jueteng* lords, who finance the candidates. So from Day One, they become corrupt. So the whole political process is rotten," De Venecia said.

He added: "The President of the Philippines can take the lead in moving to eradicate corruption in this country. [She can] cleanse the Cabinet, the government financial institutions.

"When I say this, I mean I am not without sin. I am 70 and I want to leave a good legacy for my country, for my children and for my grandchildren. We must do something to lead our country from corruption, despair and poverty."

---

lass marine by December

sections, each one carrying a Filipino name to exhibit national pride, according to the park's vice president Cristina Romualdez.

The first section, called *Agos* (Flow), features a rainforest-theme with eight tanks containing freshwater species.

"This part of the oceanarium—the only open area in the facility—shows the interconnectedness between the water and land," Romualdez said. *Agos* would also feature an artificial waterfall and a touch pool, where children could interact with creatures such as starfish and shrimps.

The next section, called ***Bahura*** or the Reef, would exhibit artificial corals in 48 tanks, complete with their scientific and common names, and their roles in the ecosystem. *Laot* (Fishing Ground), on the other hand, would feature big fish and Eagle-spotted rays in a long tank.

Main attraction

The main attraction of the oceanarium is a 25-meter long walkway tunnel with 220-degree curved acrylic walls.

"Other oceanarium tunnels only have 180-degree curved walls. The Manila Ocean Park tunnel in effect, would give patrons a better viewing experience," Romualdez said.

She said one wall of the tunnel would feature corals and small fishes, while the other wall would exhibit big fishes like sharks and rays.

A school of barracudas would be seen swimming in a large tank at the *Kalaliman* (The Deep) section of the oceanarium. There would also be a shark tank and an overhead aquarium featuring the breathtaking beauty of rays, Romualdez said.

Educational facility

"We are largely an educational facility. As much as possible, we want to promote the conservation and preservation of marine species," Romualdez said, pointing out that the park has been working very closely with government agencies such as the Department of Education and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

She said the Manila Ocean Park would not include protected and endangered species such as whale sharks and other sea mammals.

A team of marine biologists and scientists has been working to ensure that the types of fish put together could live well with each other in the tanks, Romualdez said.

"We are very careful about the fish display. We are aware that we have a responsibility also—both to the public and the environment," she said.

Manila Ocean Park is owned by China Oceanis Philippines Inc., a subsidiary of China Oceanis Inc., a Singaporean-registered firm that has operated four oceanariums in China.

Oct. 29 ...

low, as Nov. 1 (Thursday) and Nov. 2 (Friday) have also been declared legal holidays.

Workers who go on leave from Oct. 30 to 31 will have a nine-day break.

According to the Department of Labor and Employment, those who will work on a special holiday will get 30 percent more than their regular daily pay.

Those who work on a special holiday, even if it fell on their rest day, will get 50 percent more than their regular daily rate. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

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Follow the money

EDITORIAL

APPARENTLY, THE MONEY RECEIVED BY PAMPANGA Gov. Ed Panlilio and other officials, right in Malacañang, was manna from heaven. It dropped out of the sky, unannounced and undeserved, and left no trail. The way officials of the Arroyo administration now talk, it seems the money materialized out of nowhere. Perhaps it was a mirage in the desert?

But it does no good to deny that money, in paper bags or brown envelopes, flowed out of the presidential palace last week, and into the hands of congressmen and governors. (No mayor has yet come forward to admit receiving any "donation"—as a Malacañang official delicately prefers to describe it; others have called it a "send-off gift," a "token of remembrance.")

Panlilio's news conference the other day, where he showed reporters the P500,000 he had been given, has put paid to that particular issue. One estimate puts the total amount handed out in two days at P95 million for congressmen and P24 million for governors. But even if, unaccountably, only a few of the visitors to Malacañang received cash gifts, the indispensable question remains: Where did the money come from?

Environment Secretary Lito Atienza, a three-term mayor of Manila, is right to remind the public that other presidents (he mentioned Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada) have done the same thing too: distribute voucher-less cash gifts to allied politicians. But whether this sordid tradition was perpetuated by other presidents or perfected under President Macapagal-Arroyo is a separate issue; we must still determine the source of the funds.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya has been most emphatic that the money did not come from his department. And it couldn't have. "All we have the power to do is to hand out pieces of paper saying that projects can be undertaken. But to give this much cash is impossible for our department," he said in Filipino.

He also said: "We are under [an] election ban. That [giving money] is illegal ... The President can't just give money to government officials." The barangay elections take place on Oct. 29.

If we take Andaya at his word, then the "donations" could only have come from two other sources: discretionary funds, or private money.

It couldn't have come from the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, as Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno, that compleat diversionary tactician, suggested the other day. Ulap simply does not have that kind of money.

But the President has access to billions of pesos in discretionary funds; by one estimate, the total amount tops P9 billion, including over P1 billion from the President's Social Fund. (For a point of reference, compare the budget of the entire judiciary, which is about P8 billion.) The President may even be able to distribute cash gifts from such government money-makers as the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.—and have them recorded as an operating expense. She has access to more billions in so-called intelligence funds.

The use of these funds, theoretically, is governed by the same rules and safeguards as other public disbursements, but there is a reason they are called discretionary. The President enjoys a lot of latitude in using them.

To be sure, we do not expect anyone from Malacañang to own up to the cash gift-giving (called, in less polite society, by its true name: bribery). Not only Andaya but also Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye have denied knowing anything about the reported distribution of cash. And who is the brave soul who will stand at the palace door to receive the money that Panlilio wants to return?

But if Malacañang officials deny that the money came from the President's discretionary funds, the only remaining alternative is even more problematical for the Arroyo administration: private wealth. We are reminded of the dramatic testimony of whistleblower Michaelangelo Zuce, who claimed two years ago that *jueteng* money was distributed before the 2004 elections to key election officials, and right in the President's La Vista residence.

Suddenly, that tale doesn't sound so tall anymore.

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readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, [illegible]

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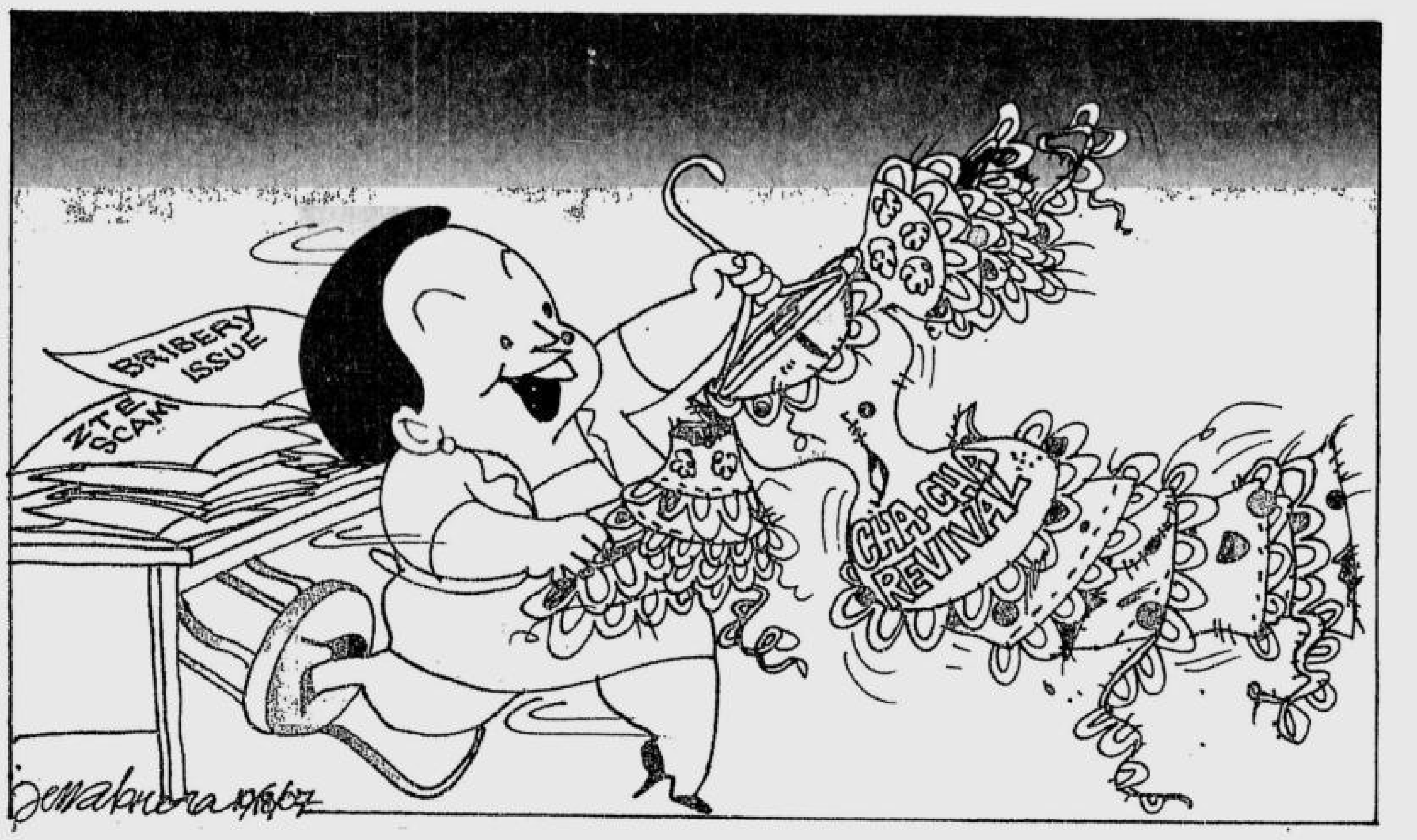

A resonant voice

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"JOURNALISTS OFTENTIMES SEEM UNABLE to tell the difference between the collapse of civilization and a bicycle accident," George Bernard Shaw once snorted.

We've yanked all plugs on coverage of faceless Malacañang staffers stuffing wads of bills into the back pockets of all-too-willing officials. Fine. But would GBS recognize the ho-hum-inside page reporting of a unique letter from 138 Muslim scholars to Pope Benedict XVI and other Christian leaders?

Without healing the fractured, often tense, relations between these two faiths, there can be no meaningful peace in the world, the 29-page letter said. Groping for common ground between adherents of these two religions, who account for over half of the world's 6.8 billion population, wasn't "simply a matter for polite ecumenical dialogue."

Titled "A Common Word Between Us," the letter also went to the archbishop of Canterbury, heads of Protestant churches and Orthodox patriarchs.

With meticulous scholarship, the 138 authors go over their shared beliefs in detail. Muslims and "People of the Scripture" worship the same God. Both the Bible and Koran emphasize "the primacy of total love and devotion to God" and "the love of neighbor." Truths shown to the Prophet Mohammed were revealed to the Old Testament (the Jewish Torah) and the New Testament, including Jesus.

The letter further cites verses in the Koran that tell Muslims to treat disciples of Jewish and Christian prophets with particular friendship and respect. "We say to Christians: we are not against them and that Islam is not against them—so long as they do not wage war against Muslims on account of their religion, oppress them and drive them out of their homes."

For a post-Sept. 11 world, it adds: "To those who nevertheless relish conflict and destruction for their own sake or reckon that ultimately they stand to gain through them, we say: our very eternal souls are also at stake if we fail to sincerely make every effort."

This is not just another inter-faith letter.

"Looking down the list of signatories, there is one person after another with large followings, often numbered in millions," observes Cambridge University professor of divinity David Ford. They come from countries as diverse as Russia, Egypt, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and Yemen. There are Sunnis, Shias, Ibadis and even the Ismailian and Jaafari schools. "The fact that they've signed it means it will be taken seriously at the grass roots."

The significance is in "the emerging voice of mainstream Islam (which has been) missing for so long," British Broadcasting Corp. religious affairs correspondent Robert Pigott pointed out.

Islam has little of the hierarchies that characterize churches headed by leaders who credibly represent their faiths. "There is no Muslim pope," he said. "There is no single voice, or even group of voices, generally acknowledged to speak for global Islam... This produced a vacuum."

And it has been easy for extremists to move into that void, whether locally in a town or city, in a country or in whole regions, Pigott wrote. "Extremists, from maverick imams to the leaders of al-Qaida, have found it easy to claim to speak for Islam."

Those who fire-bombed Bali, kidnapped Filipino hostages in Palawan, booby-trapped Paradise Hotel in Mombasa, or killed because of Danish newspaper cartoons on the Prophet cloaked their atrocities with glib claim to Islamic adherence.

"A Common Word Between Us" strips away that farce with its voice of calm reason. By going back to fundamentals, the Muslim scholars undermine the extremists.

In an earlier perceptive "leader" or editorial at the millennium's start, the Observer noted that as countries tightened security, terrorists "turned to softer targets" like tourists and civilians. It added:

"Many Islamic leaders feel threatened by the brutality of the fundamentalists. They also fretted over the lack of democracy in Muslim countries and the often violent treatment of Christian minorities, especially converts to Christianity.

"There are the beginnings of signs that many moderate Islamic communities and secular Arabs see (that) radical Islamic terrorism threatens to turn all Arabs and Islam into pariahs. But so far the criticism remains muted.

"It takes bravery, within the Islamist world, to speak out against this kind of terrorism and the way it targets innocent civilians. Those who do speak out should know that the (world) is listening and will respond with appropriate policies."

Now, "A Common Word Between Us" could help "strip away the baggage of history and culture." It produces a blank sheet for a new relationship.

Indeed, it took more than three years to muster the 138 voices into a resonant voice, letter signatory and Cambridge professor Aref Ali Nayed says. "We can't solve all of Islam's problems with a single document," he notes. "But this is just the beginning for a dialogue that must take place."

Isn't that what those ulama-bishops conferences and peace talks in Mindanao are all about?

If Iran gets the nuclear bomb, what will it do with it? asks Noah Feldman, of the Council on Foreign Relations. Does Islamic law justify the use of weapons of mass destruction? Is there a Shiite urge for an apocalypse? Is atomic warfare suicide bombing writ large?

With parochial mind-sets, we Filipinos are not going to ask such questions. But they can help us avoid mistaking the collapse of civilization for a bicycle accident.

* * *

E-mail: juanlmercado@gmail.com

The truth shall set us free

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I HAD A TEACHER IN HIGH SCHOOL, A JESUIT priest by the name of Fr. James O'Brien, who had a profound influence on me. He was a towering figure on campus—physically because he was well over six feet, and psychologically because he was a pugnacious fellow of Irish descent who didn't mind lifting students up by their shirts when he caught them in various pranks. He profoundly influenced me not just because he taught lessons in literature with a passion but because he taught lessons in life with even more of it.

He was especially unforgiving about cheating, and went ballistic when he caught a student in the throes of it, going into wild perorations about the monumental evils it spawned. Cheating—and its animating force, lying—he considered the most cardinal of sins even if it didn't qualify as an entry in the official Church list. He figured that no student would ever get ahead in life on the wings or motor of cheating, for life will eventually find him out. For all his wisdom, he never foresaw how two regimes would rise in this country spectacularly dedicated to it, one not long after we graduated from high school in 1968 and the other not long after he graduated from life in the late 1990s.

But he had a wonderful point. When you cheated, he said, you harmed other people. You got the scholarship another kid should have had, you got the prize for an essay the one who actually wrote his should have had. But more than that, when you cheated you harmed yourself. When you lie, you lie to yourself. Of course, you could always thrive on delusion, which is not without its pleasures, as the humans serving as batteries to the machines do in "The Matrix" (though that movie wasn't around then to point to). But you could always do better by removing the plug from your head, which is not without its pain but which ultimately offers the thrill of liberation. The truth shall set you free.

I remembered this in light of the spectacle of resolute, all-compassing and awe-inspiring ly-

which has been made all the darker by the luminous act of Governor-priest Ed Panlilio in exposing it. In complete contrast to what witnesses are asked in court while they lay their hands on the Bible or the Koran, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?" you can almost hear today's public officials being asked by their President while they lay their hands on their wallets, "Do you swear to tell the lie, the whole lie and nothing but the lie, so help you me?" Truth vs. Lie, Light vs. Dark, Good vs. Evil. The choice is stark, the divide yawns.

Predictably, the regime's reaction to Panlilio's revelation was to lie some more. The budget secretary came out to say the bribe didn't come from the national budget. Well, who says it did? Which only made it worse, the money for the bribe never getting to the official budget, it had been skimmed off well before. Malacañang officials routinely denied giving away any money to governors and sundry visitors, which almost tempted me to hang around in the vicinity where you could get half a million bucks handed to you by no one in particular to do nothing in particular. Eduardo Ermita went out to say that if the money really came from Malacañang, then well and good, local officials were constantly asking for funds for their pet projects, maybe it was time they got it.

At about the same time this was going on, GMA was speaking before human rights advocates at Trader's Hotel insisting that "we have no tolerance for human rights violations of any kind" and that under her rule the Philippines "is

was there saying, "We deplore any and all killings of political activists and journalists," without explaining why the more she deplores their killings the more of them get killed. Again you heard in your mind: "Do you swear to tell the lie, the whole lie, and nothing but the lie, so help you when this country finally gets fed up?"

Thank God, there was Panlilio at the opposite end holding up before the world the bundle of bills he got, all accounted for, all ready to be returned to Malacañang by way of rebuff or to the people by way of giving it back to its original owners.

Truly, I was reminded of the lessons I got in high school from a pugnacious priest of Irish descent who didn't mind rapping students by the scruff of their necks when he caught them cheating. And the one thought that came to me was: Every election, various groups list down the virtues they would want to see in their elective officials. Every forum on politics and governance, various individuals list down the qualities they believe would make for good politics and good governance. In fact there is only one virtue we should want to see in public officials, there is only one quality that assures good politics and good governance: That is the capacity to tell the truth.

Everything else is secondary, everything else is derivative. You have the capacity to tell the truth, all the good things follow. You have the capacity to tell the truth, you get people to understand their true plight and, like Churchill, galvanize them into shedding blood, sweat and tears to free a ravaged land. You have the capacity to tell the truth, you get the citizens to take charge of their lives rather than pose as their savior, which is the true essence of democracy, a community sinking or swimming by common consent.

You have the capacity to tell only lies—indeed you have the capacity to live a lie, which is that you are the president when [illegible] voters never voted for you—well, look where we are now. The lies have kept us jailed.

On revolutions

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THERE'S A LOT OF CONCERN WITHIN THE RULing coalition, led by Lakas-CMD, about the possibility of its breaking up because of the rift between President Macapagal-Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia. Among the most vocal in lamenting it is Davao Rep. Prospero Nograles, who heads the House panel in the Commission on Appointments. Deputy Speaker Amelita Villarosa of Kampi, who is close to both GMA and JDV, called me up the other day to say the President told the 190 House members that she gathered at Malacañang that she still backed JDV and asked them to support his leadership. For his part, JDV has professed continuing support for her even as he asked her to clean up the corruption in government and start a "moral revolution."

The sound bites from both sides are good so far, but it's also evident that there are sowers of intrigue who are trying to break up the coalition that has resulted in 27 quarters of uninterrupted and accelerating economic growth. Both leaders should search deep into their hearts and examine their motives. Right-thinking people in both camps want the unity to be preserved in the last two and a half years of GMA's presidency.

* * *

A lot of noise is being made about the alleged payoff of House members and governors by the Palace last Thursday, but it's hard to sift through what's true and what's false. Only a handful of governors admitted receiving money while no House member has admitted to it, except Cebu Rep. Tony Cuenco, who now says he was merely "joking." The various associations of local officials have denied receiving such funds. If at all, it looks like the choice of beneficiaries was selective.

* * *

My feeling about this payola issue is that, as Environment Secretary Lito Atienza pointed out, handing out "gifts" has been going on in different administrations and people have received them on various occasions for various reasons. In the past, as media have noted, this included even churchmen whose poverty-alleviation programs received financial support from Palace occupants, so that Archbishop Angel Lagdameo shouldn't moralize too loudly on this issue. Local officials find these funds helpful when they go back to their constituents, whose palms seem to be perpetually stretched out. Recently I ran into former Sen. John Osmeña who noted that since the time he entered Cebu politics as a counselor in the early '60s the "*painit*" for convening even just barangay officials has gone up so much over the years.

* * *

I find the allegation that the payola was intended to buy the governors' support against the Pulido impeachment complaint rather unbelievable, since everyone knows it's weak and flawed. If any payola was given, I suspect it was to help politicians fund their candidates in the barangay elections, which, of course, can't be openly acknowledged since these are supposed to be neutral exercises. In fact, a politician told me that some mayors and governors have asked the Palace for funds to help their candidates penetrate areas that are "under NPA influence."

* * *

The public should welcome an investigation into the payola issue as the senators want, but the problem is that they may not have enough witnesses. Another problem is that the clamor to investigate could widen to include the PDAF enjoyed by members of both chambers of Congress as well as the P1 million each senator receives monthly for operational expenses. At the close of the House session last week, members each received a check for P200,000, representing two months' accumulated operational expenses (up from P50,000 monthly), which include provincial travel and rental of office space in their districts. But few know that each senator's P1 million monthly stipend is inclusive of staff salaries, travel and rental expenses, but over and above what they receive from committee work.

"Payola," "gift" or "*pabaon*"—these are all part of the depraved political culture that has been with this country over the decades. It's time indeed to launch a moral revolution with regard to this practice, but to assign the blame only on the President is neither fair nor effective. As JDV pointed out, politicians, churchmen, media and everyone ought to join this revolution, but GMA has to lead. But can she? We'll see?

* * *

Cecile Alvarez and I had as guest on our dzRH Sunday evening program Presidential Management Staff chief Cerge Remonde, who seems to keep adding a new official hat to his collection. Aside from heading the PMS, Remonde is also chief of the Cabinet oversight committee on infrastructure and of the Cabinet committee of peers, which reviews decisions of the Presidential Anti-Graft Committee and where he has earned the monicker of "father confessor" of the Cabinet. Because of these three jobs, Remonde is so busy. But because of them too, he enjoys special insights into the administration's projects. Naturally optimistic about the state of affairs, he gave us a desk tour of the various big-ticket infrastructure programs around the country, but nowhere did he wax more ecstatic than over the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) project launched by GMA in 2004. He pointed out that in the past three years, about P178 billion has been released to over 2.8 million active microfinance clients and SME accounts, generating over 1.7 million new jobs.

What's beautiful about this program, conducted largely through the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Remonde stressed, is that its clients are 92 percent women and their loan repayment rate is 98 percent. This can be traced to the women borrowers' training in credit techniques and values, the product development conducted by the Department of Science and Technology and the marketing development done by the Department of Trade and Industry. "There's a 'silent revolution' going on in the countryside, one that's helping to lick poverty, even though it doesn't hit the media as sensationally as the scandals," Remonde said.

World Poverty Day is our day

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

WE WHO ARE NOT ON THE EXTREME SIDE OF the economic divide, we who are fortunate to have a little more than the have-nots, but who have so much less than those who talk six to eight zeros in board rooms and golf courses, have no reason to feel that there is nothing important or impactful for us to do.

We are many, in fact, we are the majority, and we have the power. And I do not mean only on election day. If only we could bring forth that power. If only we knew how.

Yesterday was the United Nation's official World Poverty Day. It was not a day to be celebrated, but rather to be observed. It was a day to remind the world that a third of the human citizens of this planet—the "have-nots"—could be dying because of hunger, disease and disasters at this very moment because of the neglect, greed and ignorance of the few "haves" who have too much in their hands and those who have the power, might and numbers to change the order of things but don't.

For the two billion people who live on less than $2 (or about P90) a day, every day is poverty day. Half of them live on less than $1 a day. The UN's official day—they've never heard of it, and for them it doesn't matter when it is.

Seven years ago, in 2000, 189 nations committed themselves to cut that grim figure in half. Four years later in 2004, the figures still looked grim, swinging from hope to despair to hope.

More than 100 million children were still out of school. Each year, about 10 million children die before their fifth birthday. Some 40 million people are living with HIV and AIDS of which five million die each year.

UN figures remain grim. Every day, about 25,000 people die of hunger or hunger-related causes. This means one human being every three and a half seconds, with children being the most likely to perish.

Is there not enough food to go around? Oh, but there is enough food to feed the teeming millions. The problem is that there are millions who are trapped or held hostage by poverty and can't get to where the food is because they have no money, they have no work, they can't go anywhere. And when they are further weakened, they become even poorer, sicker and less likely to find work and get to where the food is. They can't even grow the food they must eat.

Without intervention from outside, they are trapped in a spiral that goes further down. This spiral has to be broken. Doing this is not easy, it is not going to be broken by simply pumping aid money or building infrastructure. Development aid without regard for the human factor will eventually fizzle out.

There are many ways of dealing with the poverty spiral or breaking it softly, so to speak. Development workers would often speak about "food for work" programs that would enable jobless adults to get up slowly and build for themselves the infrastructure that would help them get out of the mire. And for children, there is the "food for education" where children are fed while they are in school.

Of what use is a school and a good curriculum (and broadband networks) if the students have addled brains because they are malnourished? They wouldn't be able to get to the school house because they suffer from vitamin and mineral deficiency, their lips and gums are sore, their bodies are ravaged by infection, etc., etc.

One small step at a time. A global problem could find some local solutions that means the difference from here to there. And the poor themselves, if they are not yet so crippled by disease and hunger, could do a lot for themselves, with a little help, of course.

The theme for the 20th International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (that's the official name) is "People Living in Poverty as Agents of Change." This suggests a recognition of the poor people's role in their own emancipation.

There are as many stories on this as there as many poor families. I have seen stories unfold around me. I have seen failures and successes. I have seen crossovers from despair to hope.

It is difficult for a journalist to remain on the fringes. I have always needed to savor what it is like, to be there, to sometimes put in something where my mouth is. But one must forget that something will ever come back. Oh, but something does, but not in the way we might expect.

And then, one must remember that local efforts are not everything. On the occasion of World Poverty Day, Jubilee South (a global network of social movements, including those from the Philippines) has issued a reminder that one of the biggest challenges for the global debt movement today is to correct the perception that the debt problem has largely been solved by the debt relief programs offered by lenders in recent years.

"The majority of the peoples of the South continue to suffer from the injustice and staggering burden of debt. It is a burden not only because of the huge amounts of debt payments in the face of poverty and deprivation. It is unjust not only because our people did not benefit from much of the debts they are forced to pay. The debt is also used as an instrument to ensure that our economies generate profits for global corporations and meet the requirements of global markets instead of providing for our needs.

"We continue to struggle for freedom from debt. We struggle not only to wipe out the outstanding debt claim from our countries but to transform the structures, the institutions, and the relations of power that has led to the accumulation of unjust and illegitimate debt."

Poverty has a human face, a name, a voice that we know very well. We need not journey far. We who are un-poor and un-wealthy can do a lot.

* * *

Log on to freerice.com, use your word knowledge and win grains of rice for the poor. I have won 1,000 grains in one sitting. Someone please check and tell me if this is for real.

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

Mabini's independence blueprint (2)

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

INSTRUCTIVE IS MABINI'S DESCRIPTION OF his experience with these politicians, and his analysis of why the politicians at the apex of their careers in 1903 would, by 1907, find themselves in retreat before a generation of Filipinos who were their clerks and aides during the Revolution.

"Before my deportation to Guam," Mabini reminisced, "those who had unconditionally taken the government's side in order to win the official title of friends of peace tried to organize a political party. Since the government could not promise more than a future autonomy, which did not and does not satisfy the people, it did not suit them to adopt this objective since very few would join them. They therefore asked for annexation as a territory for the time being, and subsequently as a state. The truth is not only that such an objective found and finds no support in any political party in the United States, but also that no American statesman believes in the possibility that the islands may some day become a state of the union. But this objective was less objectionable to the people, which they considered too ignorant to grow aware of any political game. I had the imprudence to remark that their aspiration was chimerical; that if they wanted something positive, they should work on the government to give in a little and promise independence in the future; and that I would help them to convince the people that it should also compromise and give up immediate independence."

Mabini's vision, then, was clear. Defeated by the sword, Filipinos must try to achieve their independence not through the sword, but with the pen. The campaign would require compromise, tact, a vision for the future which would sustain a long-term plan involving convincing the Americans that their relinquishing the Philippines was only a matter of how and when, and not if; and of convincing Filipinos to follow the judgment of their leaders as to the right time to push, and the right time to bide their time for positive developments.

A few months after finishing his slim book, Apolinario Mabini died. His nation, consumed with the excitement of the here and now, barely noticed his passing, choosing to fete the departure, in December of 1903, of William Howard Taft, who had been promoted to secretary of war.

Yet by 1907, Filipinos for the first time elected their own representatives. Our first republic had fallen only six years before. A year later, on June 19, 1908, Rizal Day, and only five days after the 10th anniversary of our proclamation of independence at Malolos, a third declaration of independence would be made, and it was an endorsement of Mabini's blueprint for independence.

Our first declaration of independence was made by a Manileño, in August 1896, but the revolution Andres Bonifacio launched was crushed and he himself was executed by his countrymen in 1897.

Our second declaration of independence was on June 12, 1898. It was made by a self-appointed Tagalog dictator, and Mabini had thought it premature. Only afterwards was Aguinaldo's dictatorship transformed into a constitutional presidency and the proclamation of independence ratified after the fact. Our first republic ceased to exist with Aguinaldo's capture by the Americans in 1901.

Mabini, reflecting on our defeated republic, was asked what should Filipinos do. He recommended reconciliation between Filipinos and Americans. But he also said that while independence by means of war had failed, independence itself must be pursued by peaceful means. In fact, he said, the value of the Filipino-American War was that it made our national resolve to be free a permanent aspiration.

By 1907, Mabini was dead. The second prime minister of the first republic, Pedro Paterno, wanted to be the first Speaker of the First Philippine Assembly.

Do you remember this poem? It ends this way:

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

The road less traveled, at least in our neck of the woods, was democracy. Paterno lost his bid for the speakership to a young man from Cebu, who was only 29, Sergio Osmeña. The old generation of Malolos had failed; it would be left for a younger generation to succeed. Paterno gallantly withdrew his candidacy. Osmeña was elected by acclamation. And the new generation made a significant decision: they decided to adopt, as the rules of the First Philippine Assembly, the rules of the United States House of Representatives.

They had the option of selecting the rules of the Spanish Cortes, the parliamentary procedure of the Malolos Republic. They did not. One door closed and another opened; the Anglo-Saxon model of legislative work has been ours for a century now, interrupted only twice: by the Japanese Occupation and home-grown martial law.

And it would not be Bonifacio or Aguinaldo who determined the strategy of independence, it was Mabini, who lived long enough to foresee by which means it would be secured.

And so, our third declaration of independence on June 19, 1908 was made by an elected Cebuano, Speaker of the First Philippine Assembly Sergio Osmeña.

Unlike the independence proclaimed at Malolos, which no nation recognized and whose government was destroyed forever, the ideal proclaimed by Osmeña has resulted in the government we have today, for better or worse, and our marking our 61st year of uninterrupted independence this year.

The bum squad

YOUNG BLOOD

Imee Cariaga

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

NINE YEARS AGO, I WAS A WIDE-EYED FRESHMAN IN THE best university in the Philippines. Right off a mantra was drummed into my head by numerous leaflets and it asserted, "There are only two universities in the country, UP and others."

I firmly believed this, and so I thought that after graduation, the best years of my life would automatically follow. I would be hired on the spot, chosen over other applicants. Companies would come looking for me and I could choose the job that I wanted because I was a UP graduate.

Things didn't turn out that way, of course. Like any other fresh graduate, I had to go job hunting and submit to countless job interviews. Call centers didn't have a nice reputation then, and I was too proud to work in one anyway. I applied for senior positions in private companies, and was promptly rejected, without knowing any better. I was jobless for six months, until I was hired as an account executive for a marketing and research company.

I was quite happy to have landed a job and earn my own money. My job entailed getting clients to engage our company's services. To do that, I had to be on the phone almost the whole time. I also had to send out fliers, faxes, e-mails and brochures.

I did this for six months and didn't get a single client to hire the company. My marketing strategy and my salesmanship were in question. Before I got the axe, I decided to resign. I wasn't going to wait until I was fired.

I went job hunting again. This time, the call of the call centers was irresistible; I found the compensation especially attractive. I became an agent selling refurbished computer parts to companies in the United States.

I did quite well. I sold a couple of chips and got my commissions. My night life was fun. Nonetheless, my future as a call center agent didn't look very bright to me. I believed I was destined for better things than making calls every night. I accepted my cousin's offer to find me a job in a government institution with which she was having some business deals.

By this time, I had already discarded my belief that I could get any job that I wanted. But working as a secretary was not my dream job. Somebody came up with a very timely suggestion: Why don't you take up nursing?

So I did. For three years, I went back to school to study nursing. Three months after graduation, I passed the board examination. I was hoping that this time I would actually get the job that I wanted since I had a passing grade that was higher than average, and what other jobs were there for a nurse than hospital work?

I got my license four months after the board exams. I had no choice but to wait the whole time since nobody would hire me unless I had a license.

When I got mine, I immediately applied to all the big hospitals, private and government alike. But it seems that nobody is hiring nurses nowadays. Private hospitals require new nurses to undergo training for not less than two months without compensation and charge a training fee. Only then do they consider an applicant to their institution.

Government hospitals are a little better since they have a pre-determined timeframe for applicants. But then there are no openings at this time of the year since the nurses eyeing jobs are not yet resigning because the United Kingdom has stopped hiring nurses and it takes a long time to process visas for other destinations. Therefore, the new nurses have to wait for an opening, which can be an excruciating experience. I have been waiting for a job interview for almost a year now and still I haven't been scheduled for one yet.

People have been saying that there is a nursing shortage in the country. But 39,000 nursing graduates passed the board exams given last June. Before that, 20,000 nurses passed last December. And earlier about 35,000 others qualified to practice the nursing profession. This surge of nursing graduates is creating a pool of unemployed since no company abroad will hire nurses unless they have at least a one-year hospital experience. But how can we get that experience if nobody is willing to hire us?

What some people suggest is that the new nurses finish all the international tests, including the NCLEX and IELTS, so that when the time comes for them to apply for work in some hospitals abroad, they would already have these qualifications. But when a local hospital knows that you have passed the NCLEX, it will not hire you because you are not likely to stay for more than a year. Some hospitals have even come up with the policy of not giving out a certificate of employment unless you follow the terms of your contract, especially the length of employment.

What are new nurses like me supposed to do?

Imee Cariaga, 25, passed the nursing board exams in December last year.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Admission of guilt

"Getting pardoned is an admission of guilt. I will exhaust all legal means to fight for justice, even if it means going to the Supreme Court."

—Former President Joseph Estrada, saying he will spurn any pardon from President Macapagal-Arroyo

Only in Manila

"Manila does not speak for the entire country. That's why the countryside is very angry and neglected. Manila believes that it is the entire Philippines.... Does this not create the wrong public perception, half-truths and clear prejudice and a hate campaign against the President?"

—Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles, saying the survey showing that majority of Mega Manila residents were willing to forgive ousted President Joseph Estrada was not representative of the people's true sentiments

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Not really equal before Jpepa

LETTERS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THIS LETTER IS A REACTION TO Ramon Tulfo's Oct. 16 column titled "What's wrong with sending nurses to Japan?" The column came as a surprise to me, a Japanese graduate student of the University of the Philippines, who have been studying the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa).

First, Tulfo claims that Dr. Leah Paquiz, the president of the Philippine Nurses Association, is trying to mislead would-be migrants to Japan by saying they will be treated as trainees.

I agree with Dr. Paquiz. In the Jpepa, it is stipulated that Filipino nurses will be given the salary equivalent to or above that given to "Japanese nationals" before passing the board exam. However, there are three kinds of nurses in Japan: registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and nurse aides. Filipino nurses will fall under the category of nurse aides and work under the supervision of Japanese nurses because their license in the Philippines will not be recognized at all. And the starting salary of Japanese nurse aides is as low as $1,364.

Second, the shortage of nurses and caregivers does exist, but an estimate by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare indicates that the gap between supply of and demand for nurses is in fact narrowing—from 41,600 nurses (6:1) in 2006 to 15,900 (3:0) in 2010. As for caregivers, the ministry estimates that an additional 70,000 caregivers can be supplied annually.

Third, the average monthly salary of a nurse in Japan is equivalent to $2,741, not $3,121. Please note that the starting salary of a nurse is $1,987; that of a caregiver is even less—$1,525.

Fourth, the allowance of a Filipino nurse or caregiver during the language training will be around $320, not $400.

Lastly, I have interviewed a support group of former "entertainers." There were some passers of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test Level-3, but none of them was able to pass Level-2. It is said that you must be as proficient as Level-2 passers in order to pass the nursing or caregiving board exam.

As a Japanese who loves the Philippines, I wish that the Filipino people would look at the real picture of the Jpepa without overestimating its benefits.

—SHINJI YAMADA,
Barangay Central, Diliman,
Quezon City,
shinji96@gmail.com

Publicity could yet save Sibuyan

I HAVE MIXED EMOTIONS ABOUT what's going on lately in my hometown, Sibuyan Island. ("Killing spooks Sibuyan mining," INQUIRER, 10/8/07) I felt really sad about the shooting accident; but, on the other hand, I'm happy that the media, including the INQUIRER, gave it some prominence.

I was there in February 2007 to give a short speech, and being an environmentalist myself, I couldn't understand why the Arroyo administration approved exploration activities in the area. After the 2007 elections, exploration permits were issued despite strong opposition from the residents.

I would like to extend my warmest thanks to the INQUIRER for making this environmental issue a national—or maybe, a global—concern. I hope that the publicity will save my hometown from becoming another ghost town in the future. I do hope that media's support will open the eyes of our political leaders and persuade them to protect our environment.

Finally, I do hope that it will stop the destruction of our island—the place where the cool breeze, crystal clear water and a virgin forest meet.

—REYNALDO RAMOS,
reynaldoramos_98@yahoo.com

De Quiros unfair to Lady Miriam

THIS REFERS TO CONRADO DE Quiros' Oct. 8 column titled "Desperate House members." He wrote:

"Finally, where in God's name does (Rep. Bienvenido) Abante and Miriam (Sen. Defensor-Santiago) get off bristling about an insult 'Desperate Housewives' has inflicted on us when daily they inflict crueler insults on us in Congress? Between switching off 'Desperate Housewives' and switching off Miriam (and 'Here Comes Johnny Ponce Enrile'), Filipino viewers won't agonize over their decision."

It appears that De Quiros has made a vocation out of criticizing Senator Santiago. However, it is one thing to disagree with the senator on specific issues, it is another to take pot shots at a public official for the simple reason that a columnist dislikes her. The comments De Quiros made against the senator are needless and patently unfair.

We hope that De Quiros will be fair to the senator, instead of gratuitously criticizing her at every turn.

—JEANIE BACONG,
Public Affairs,
Office of Sen. Miriam
Defensor-Santiago

Maynilad digging 'restored' since Sept. 6

THIS REFERS TO THE PHOTO OF an "unfinished excavation work" at H. Lopez Boulevard corner Infanta Street, Tondo, Manila, which is part of Maynilad Water's concession area. (INQUIRER, 10/8/07)

The photo depicts an unrestored digging which, according to Alicia Estrellado, has inconvenienced motorists and pedestrians.

May we inform the INQUIRER and the public that the digging in question was for the interconnection of two main pipelines in that area designed to improve water service to our customers in Balut, Tondo. The digging in that picture had been permanently cemented as early as Sept. 6, 2007, or more than a month prior to the publication of the picture. After a curing period of one week, the area became passable to vehicles on Sept. 13, 2007.

Before this, the digging was temporarily covered as hydrotesting had to be conducted on the newly interconnected facility in that area.

We thank Estrellado and the INQUIRER for bringing this matter to our attention.

—JESUS MATUBIS JR.,
assistant vice president,
Corporate Affairs and
Media Relations,
Maynilad Water Services Inc.,
MWSS Compound,
Katipunan Road, Balara, QC

Big fish vs big fish

I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING the NBN project controversy, and I'm glad that the big fish are fighting over it and exposing each other. I'm glad that Joey de Venecia blew the whistle on the project.

I hope his exposé would lead to a thorough investigation. But I completely missed the point that the younger De Venecia had violated the anti-graft law.

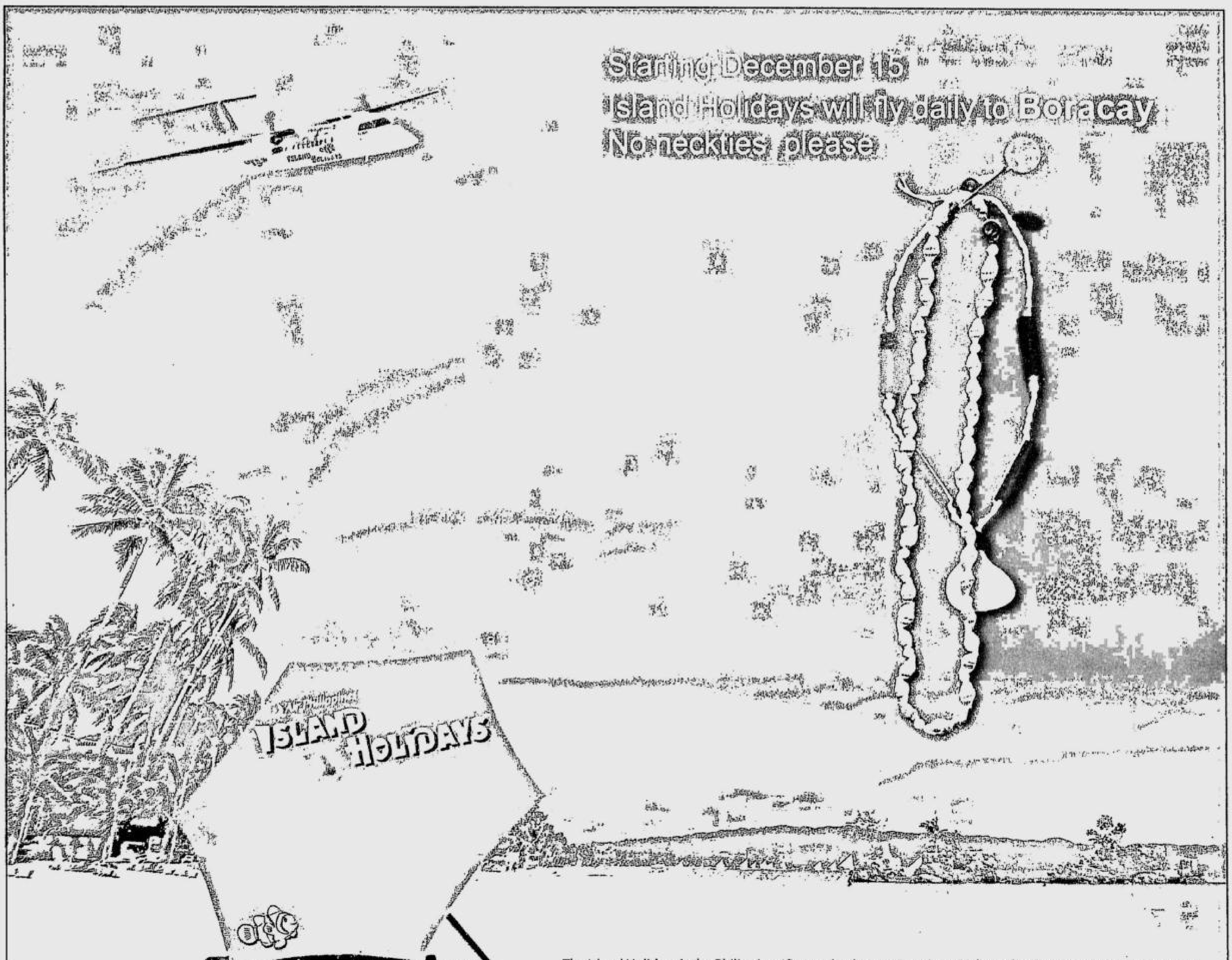
Brilliant! The big fish are fighting each other without realizing that they are driving themselves into a corner. I guess this is democracy, Philippine-style.

I still remain optimistic that one day the Philippines will clean up its institutions and eradicate corruption. But I guess we will just have to wait and see until all the big fish have eliminated each other.

—SAM DIGNADICE,
Sam_Dignadice
@yahoo.com

Virginia, USA: Mr. Isidro Rodriguez, President of GLCI is joined by teachers welcoming the newly arrived teachers of GLCI from the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. More teachers are expected to arrive within the month. GLCI local partner WorldGoal Philippines is expecting more employers to arrive late October to interview highly qualified teachers for SPED, Science, Math and Elementary.

For more inquiries, visit our office at WorldGoal Corporation, POEA License 096-LB-091106-PL, office address 3F Rm301 532 Avenue Square Garden, United Nations Avenue cor. Jorge Bocobo Street, Manila. Tel nos. (02)4007421/(02)3394625, mobile nos. (632)9209531252 and (632)9198772865.



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The losing identity of the Agta people

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Ocampo, Camarines Sur

ALFREDO Marianito and his non-Agta wife Norma live on the shoulders of Mt. Isarog. Like other Agta people, they work as abaca strippers in vast landholdings inside their ancestral domain. JUAN ESCANDOR JR.

SALVACION BUENAFLOR, 43, one of the residents of the predominantly Agta Tabangnon village of Villaflorida in Ocampo town, Camarines Sur, resents belonging to an Agta bloodline.

She confesses to enduring discrimination, sneers and taunts from other people since her grade school days.

"I cut my finger one time and showed them (non-Agta classmates) that my blood was red and challenged them to also cut their fingers and if they also had red blood, they, too, were Agta," she said, narrating one incident in school when she was in Grade 2.

Buenaflor says she was disheartened when her father confirmed that, indeed, the family belongs to an Agta lineage. She blames her parents for that.

Not pure

Alfredo Cledoro, tribal chieftain of about 80 Agta families in Ocampo, downplays his lineage as being not "pure." He could not even recall his ancestors, he says.

Cledoro, a caretaker of one of the tourist facilities of the provincial government, was elected top tribal leader nine years ago when the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997 or Republic Act No. 8371 was enforced.

His tribe is one of the beneficiaries of 599.34 hectares of land in Ocampo covered by a Certificate of Ancestral Land Title (CALT) that gives them access to its resources.

Recognized as one of the distinct peoples under the law, the Agta tribe is among other ethnic groups all over the archipelago that were given some privileges over wide swaths of land considered to be ancestral domain.

Marcial Bocalig, 30, another Agta Tabangnon, has accepted the discriminatory treatment. They might have deserved it, he says.

But Bocalig is grateful to his grandfather who taught him that flocks of birds that unusually flew over Mount Isarog indicated a coming calamity. This proved true before Supertyphoon "Reming" came last year, he says.

He was also taught herbal remedies for colds, fever and flu, especially since his people could not afford to consult a doctor.

Poverty, he says, stalks them because they do not have their own land. They work as abaca strippers or farm laborers in the haciendas of lowlanders.

A common attitude of the lowlanders toward the Agta people who have settled in the upland areas since ancient times, is generally negative as seen in the Bicol adjective "*uro-agtaon*," which may mean someone uncivil, having bad manners, ugly and ignorant.

Because of this discrimination, they have been trying hard to blend themselves in contemporary society, causing them to lose their own identity and culture.

In the first place, most present-day Agta people don't know their culture anymore.

Asisclo Bagaindoc, chief of the technical management division of the National Commission for Indigenous Peoples in Ocampo, says the Agta people have their own language but nobody knows it.

There is one remaining tribe in the hinterlands of Camarines Norte, whose culture has survived and the Agta language is still used there, he says.

Bagaindoc, one of the pioneers of an outreach program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the Agta people in the early 1990s, describes the Agta language as "*garo gamgam*" (bird-like).

"Numbering 4,073 individuals, the Agta Kabihug moves in subgroups as it continues to survive through hunting and gathering. It does not practice intermarriage outside of the tribe, avoids physical contact with lowlanders and is aloof towards strangers," he adds.

Together with an interpreter, Bagaindoc says he had lived for one month with a subgroup of 10 Agta Kabihug families in Sta. Elena, Camarines Norte, and tried to introduce simple agricultural technology and hygiene to the nomadic tribe of hunters and gatherers.

The NCIP listed 23,270 Agta people belonging to different tribes in the two Camarines provinces, Albay and Sorsogon. Bagaindoc says they were products of intermarriage with lowlanders, including Camarines Sur's Agta Tabangnon and Agta Cimarron.

He says the Agta Tabangnon descended from parents of a pure Agta and a native lowlander, while the Agta Cimarron came from a mix of a pure Agta and a Spaniard.

Ina devotees

Bicol historian Danilo Gerona credits the Cimarrones, people living in the shoulders of Isarog, for laying the foundation of the 277 years of devotion to Nuestra Señora de Peñafrancia, the Bicol patroness of the Roman Catholic Church.

They demanded from the bishop of Nueva Caceres (Naga City) their own place of worship, started the devotion to the patroness sometime in 1750 through its bearer in Ocampo, a secular priest named Don Miguel Robles de Covarrubias, he says.

Bagaindoc says he was witness to the animosity between lowlanders and Agta Kabihug in several occasions in his work at the NCIP.

An incident in Labo, Camarines Norte taught them that lowlanders and Agta Kabihug don't mix with one another.

A female staff member of the NCIP recounted that in a mixed crowd in a community assembly, one must never involve an Agta Kabihug in food serving, especially where lowlanders were present as they would not touch it.

She said she also observed that when the Agta Kabihug would come to town, no lowlander would ride with them in a vehicle.

Bagaindoc recounts fascinating experiences living with the Agta Kabihug, one of them involving a plant species in the forest, whose bark is used by the tribe in lighting their shelters all night long.

Still a lot of things must be learned about the Agta Kabihug, the only surviving nomadic tribe in Bicol, he says, but it seems time is running out.

Alfredo Marianito, 67, unmistakably looks like an Agta, but all he could remember about his ancestors was that they were good at hunting wild pigs with bows and arrows or lance.

When asked why lowlanders treat them lowly, Marianito says he doesn't know.

The ups and downs of being an HUC

By Redempto Anda
Puerto Princesa City

IT HAD EXPECTED A CLEAN BREAK FROM THE provincial government, but Puerto Princesa City is now witnessing the downside of being voted a highly urbanized city (HUC).

With its new status, city resolutions need not be approved by the provincial board, a city employee on official travel need not seek the governor's permission, and the city need not share taxes with the province.

The hype that went with the conversion of Puerto Princesa from a component city into an HUC was spun around the promise of fast-tracking urban development and improving governance and the delivery of public services. So the people who believed endorsed the initiative in a July 9 referendum.

But recent developments showed that becoming an HUC has its setbacks, too, and Puerto Princesa has turned a leaf into troubled history.

In a special session on Sept. 10, the provincial board booted out a city councilor, who is the chair of the Provincial Councilors' League (PCL), from the legislative chamber following a bitter floor debate that pitted supporters of City Hall against those of the Capitol.

Manipulation

Councilor Roger Castro, sitting as an ex-oficio member of the board, claimed that his ouster was manipulated by the "unseen hands of Capitol political leaders" who refused to recognize his reelection in a controversy-marred PCL polls two days earlier.

Castro, backed by the lobby of city councilors, was unanimously elected league chair by the provincial federation.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government, however, refused to recognize the validity of the results. Undersecretary Austere Panadero had earlier issued a local opinion that councilors from a newly proclaimed HUC could no longer be members of the provincial federation.

Castro, who was contesting the chairmanship with an opponent endorsed by most provincial leaders, ignored the DILG opinion, claiming that he remained a member of the provincial body since the city councilors had yet to form their own chapter.

His debacle, along with other problems currently faced by the city in relation to its HUC conversion, has touched off political squabbling anew between leaders of Puerto Princesa and Palawan.

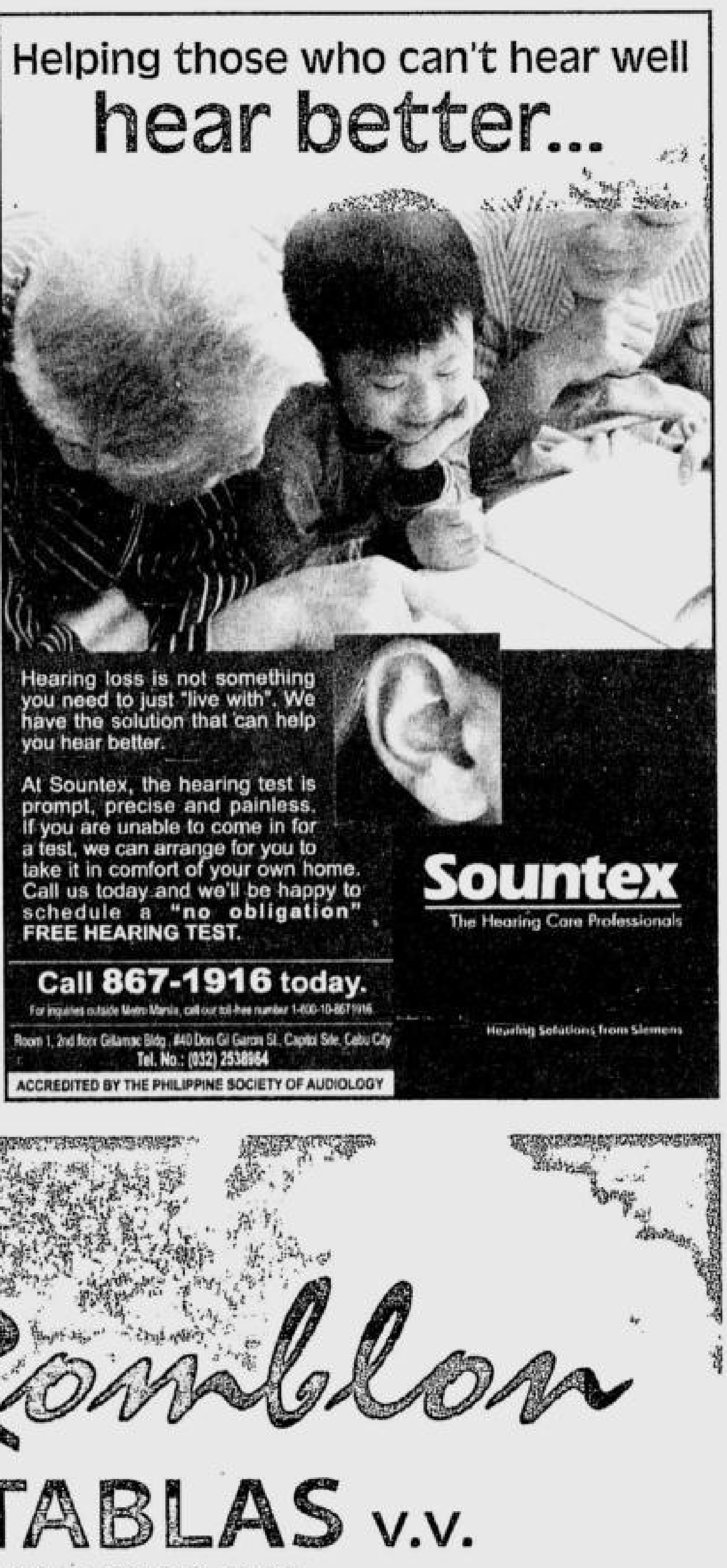
Malampaya money

Overlapping with the controversy is the quarrel over revenues from the Malampaya natural gas project off northern Palawan that Malacañang has reportedly agreed to divide among key political leaders of the province.

Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn declared on the first week of September that he had convinced Malacañang to defer the release of an executive order that was to transfer at least P6 billion into the pork barrel funds of the governor and Palawan's two congressmen.

Under the agreement, P2 billion of the royalty payments from Malampaya will fund projects identified by the provincial government, and P2 billion each to projects of the two congressmen. Another P6 billion will be spent by the national government also for Palawan projects.

Hagedorn admitted to being bitter with an earlier arrangement that left out Puerto Princesa on the pretext that it is already a highly urbanized city and was thus not qualified to receive a share under the provisions of the Local Government Code.



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Hero stops Tacurong market bombing

CAMP SIONGCO, SHARIFF KABUNSUAN—AN alert used clothing (*ukay-ukay*) vendor, police and military authorities yesterday foiled a bombing attempt in a densely populated public market in Tacurong City.

Lt. Col. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the military's 6th Infantry Division, said a suspected terrorist group allied with the Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah planted a powerful improvised explosive device (IED) at a stall selling used clothing along a busy street in Tacurong City, an agricultural city rocked by more than a dozen bomb attacks in the past two years.

The vendor noticed the explosive left unattended near the stall of his merchandise at about 7 a.m. He immediately carried the device to a children's park and reported his discovery to the police.

"He actually prevented what could have been a bloody Wednesday morning," Ando told the INQUIRER.

1Lt. Francis Señoron, team leader of the Army's bomb disposal team, promptly defused the home-made bomb and prevented injuries and death to innocent civilians.

He described the IED as "very powerful." It was fashioned from three live 60 mm mortar projectiles packed with jagged fragments of cast iron, nails, and rigged with a battery-operated trigger mechanism.

Ando said the IED was placed inside a black bag left by still unidentified men at a makeshift stall owned by Joselito Baylon, a dealer of imported used clothing.

"It would have hurt many people and caused major damage," said city police chief, Supt. Teng Tocao.

"One of the workers of Mr. Baylon was so vigilant that he immediately suspected the bag left unattended by a man," Ando said.

"What is remarkable was that he risked his life by carrying the bag and brought it to the plaza where no one would be hit should the bomb explode," Ando said.

Baylon told police he has no known enemies. *Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao*

Bishop tells Vilma: Open up on Palace cash

CALAMBA CITY—LIPA CITY Archbishop Ramon Arguelles on Wednesday said President Macapagal-Arroyo should speak up on the supposed handing out of money to local government officials and congressmen who attended a meeting in Malacañang last week.

"I think it would be better if the President would say her piece regarding this incident so every speculation will be put to rest. Otherwise, this will just linger on. If she had good intentions (in giving out the money), then she should explain it," Arguelles said in Filipino.

Arguelles, however, said he believed that the debates concerning the issue would still continue even after the President's denial of the allegations that the money came from the Palace.

The bishop likewise advised Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos-Recto to break her silence on the reports that governors received P500,000 as "cash gift" from Malacañang.

The actress-turned-politician had shunned media interviews since Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio came out and admitted on Sunday that he received P500,000 after they met with Palace officials.

Three other governors supported Panlilio's admission, including Bulacan Gov. Jonjon Mendoza.

The INQUIRER repeatedly contacted Recto but she did not answer the calls and text messages on her mobile phone.

The INQUIRER also contacted her at her office but one of her staff members said Recto has yet to report to the capitol since Monday.

Jing Segusmundo, one of the governor's media liaison officer, promised this correspondent that she would arrange an interview with Recto on Oct. 15.

But until Oct. 17, she has not answered the calls made on her mobile phone.

"The real source of the money is still unclear. Maybe that's what's holding her back. *Baka galing pa yung pera sa jueteng* (The money might have come from jueteng)," the bishop added.

Arguelles, an outspoken supporter of Recto, said if the governor had received any amount from Malacañang, she should immediately return it.

"That's bribe money. I can't see any reason the (Palace) should give out money to politicians but to bribe them. It's immoral and illegal," he said. The bishop said if Malacañang distributed the cash as funds for candidates running in the barangay elections, he said the national government could be violating the Election Code. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

DAVAO BLOOMS DENNIS JAY SANTOS/INQUIRER MINDANAO
Street vendor Carmen Andalan, 52, of Davao City is at her usual spot on the streets of the city to sell flowers. She has been selling flowers for the past 10 years, helping brighten up the city streets.

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Candies down 4 pupils in Cebu

By J. Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—FOUR schoolchildren in a southern Cebu town were brought to the hospital on Wednesday, allegedly after eating candies during recess time.

Jacinta Mariposque, pharmacist of the Oslob District Hospital in Oslob town, some 117 km south of Cebu City, said two of the victims were confined and given intravenous fluids.

"They are all in stable condition after suffering stomachache and vomiting," Mariposque said.

Two eight-year-olds, Mc Mariel Condina and Jehan Grace Durban, were from Poblacion, Oslob and Grade 2 pupils of the Oslob Central Elementary School.

The two other children, Ian Luna, 10, Grade 4, and Gelyka Riza Rondero, 8, Grade 2, were released yesterday.

Mariposque said one of the victims bought candies from a store outside the school campus during recess between 9 to 10 a.m.

The pupil then distributed the candies to the other pupils, but a few minutes later they started complaining of stomachache and later vomited.

Home Economics teacher Adelita Durangparang brought the children to the hospital.

Health officials rushed to Oslob to look into the poisoning, said Dr. Cristina Giango, head of the Integrated Provincial Health office (IPHO).

NEWSBRIEFS

Cops play Santa, give 'ukay-ukay'

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—The police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) on Sept. 29 distributed used clothing and grocery items to 100 poor families in Barangay Canlubang as part of its community relations program.

"This is a big help to us since life is really hard. We don't have anything to wear and eat," 60-year-old Elsa Galsim, one of the beneficiaries of the project, said.

CIDG-Calabarzon director Senior Supt. Mark Edison Belarma said the used clothing were part of the confiscated "ukay-ukay" items seized during a police operation on a warehouse in San Pedro, Laguna a few months ago. ***Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon***

Suspected NPAs kill ex-Cafgu

LUCENA CITY—Three suspected New People's Army hit men gunned down a former member of the local militia unit in General Luna, Quezon on Sept. 29.

A police report said Rodolfo Agoncillo, 46, a former member of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit based in the Bondoc Peninsula, was repairing his fishing boat at about 9:30 a.m. in Sitio (subvillage) Heluna, Barangay San Isidro Ibaba, when three unidentified armed men approached the victim and told him not to run.

They fired three successive shots, hitting the victim point blank in the head that caused his immediate death.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Parricide raps for son of slain man

IROSIN, Sorsogon—Police here have filed a parricide charge against one of the sons of Orlando Guardacasa, the employee of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology who was shot dead more than a month ago while on his way to a birthday party.

Chief Insp. Wilson Alicuman, Irosin police chief, tagged Paul Mark Guardacasa, 18, as one of the two suspects in the killing of Orlando last Aug. 4 at Barangay Gulang-gulang here.

Alicuman said they based the charge on a May 16, 2007 letter supposedly written by the victim before he died and the sworn statement of Orlando's sister alleging that a witness confessed to seeing the suspect at the crime scene after the shooting.

Bobby Q. Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon

National awardee dies, 80

LEGAZPI CITY—Damasa Antiquera Abarquez, one of the recipients of the Sampung Ulirang Nakatatanda Award in 2000 sponsored by the Coalition of Services of the Elderly Inc., died at the Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital here on Oct. 13 at the age of 80.

Her remains lie at the Funeraria Nuestra de Salvacion in Barangay Bonot here. She will be interred today.

Farmer gets life sentence

BACOLOD CITY—The Kabankalan Regional Trial Court (RTC) sentenced a farmer to 40 years for stabbing his wife to death three years ago.

Kabankalan RTC Judge Henry Aries sentenced Reynaldo Gabales, 42, to *reclusion perpetua* after finding him guilty beyond reasonable doubt of parricide.

The judge also ordered Gabales to pay the heirs of his wife, Della Manlapao Gabales P50,000 as civil indemnity, P50,000 as moral damages and P25,000 as exemplary damages.

Court records said Gabales stabbed his wife nine times in their house in Sitio San Jose, Barangay Salong, Kabankalan City on Dec. 17, 2004.

Gabales, who pleaded not guilty, told the court his wife committed suicide. ***Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas***

Abra town councilor murdered

BAGUIO CITY—A councilor in Bucay, Abra was killed while his aide was hurt on Oct. 5 when they were attacked by armed men there.

Abra police director Senior Supt. Alexander Pumecha said Bucay Councilor Juanito Sales, 58, died instantly while his companion, Rex Bringa, was taken to the hospital for treatment of bullet wounds.

Pumecha said hooded men fired at Sales' Isuzu pickup while it was traveling along the Bucay-Peñarubia road in Abra at about 9:30 a.m. ***Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon***

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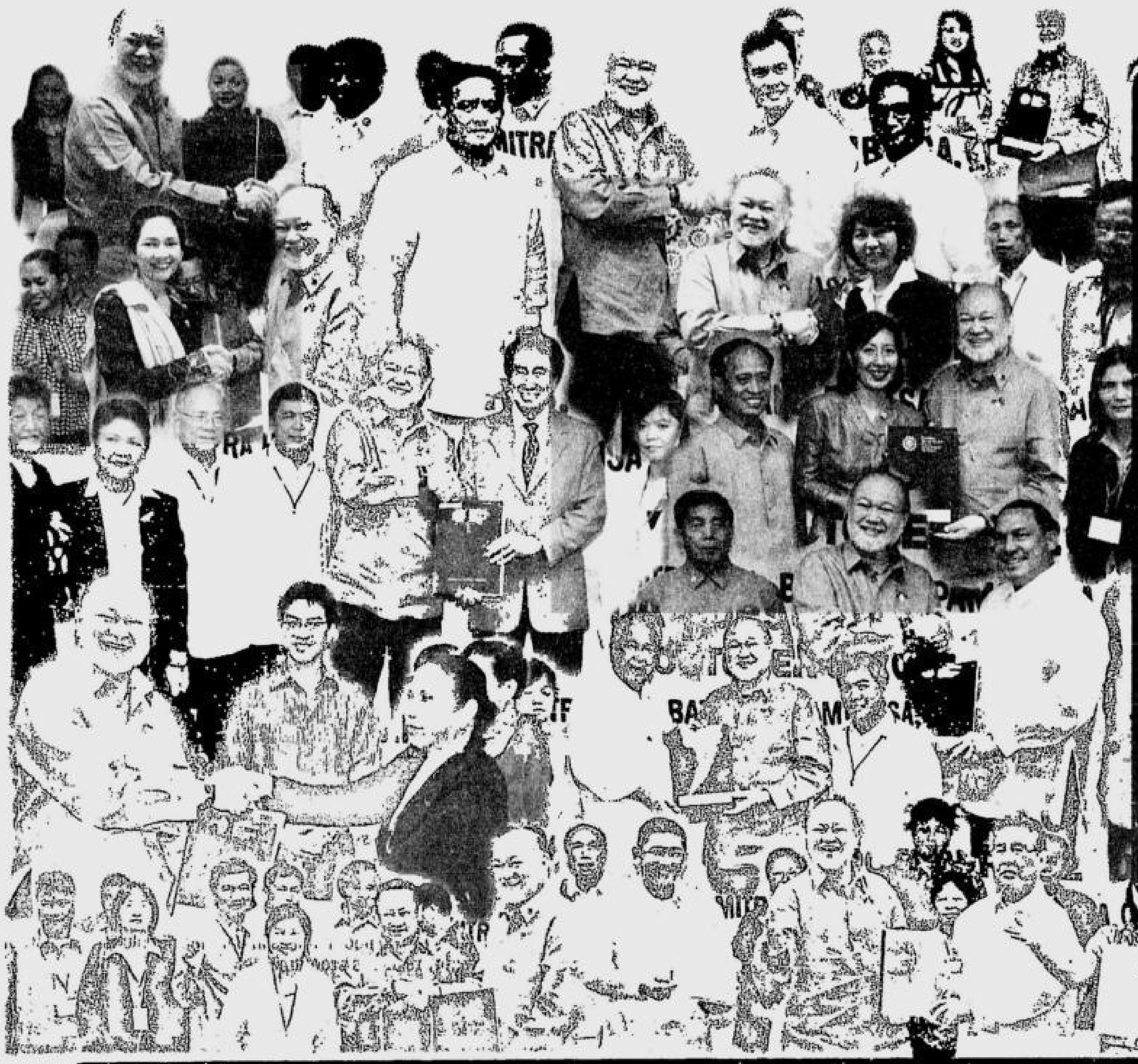

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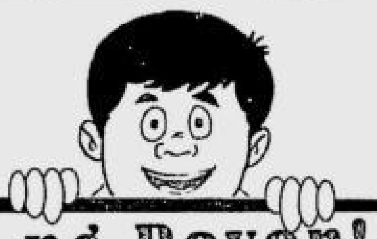

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63 Alfonso V. Umali, Jr
64 Carmencita O. Rey
65 Eleandro Jesus Madrona
66 Ma. Amelita C. Villarosa
67 Rodolfo G. Valencia

REGION V
68 Al Francis C. Bichara
69 Antonio T. Kho
70 Arnulfo P. Fuentebella
71 Diosdado Jose Ma Macapagal Arroyo
72 Felix R. Alfelor, Jr.
73 Jose G. Solis
74 Joseph A. Santiago
75 Narciso R. Bravo, Jr.
76 Reno G. Lim

REGION VI
77 Alfredo D. Marañon III
78 Antonio B. Del Rosario
79 Arthur D. Defensor, Sr.
80 Exequiel B. Javier
81 Ferjenel G. Biron
82 Florencio Miraflores
83 Fredenil H. Castro
84 Jeffrey E. Ferrer
85 Joaquin Carlos A. Nava
86 Jose Carlos V. Lacson
87 Judy J. Syjuco

REGION VII
88 Adam Relson L. Jala
89 Antonio B. Cuenco
90 Benhur M. Salimbangon
91 Edgardo M. Chatto
92 Eduardo V. Gullas
93 George P. Arnaiz
94 Jocelyn S. Limkaichong
95 Orlando B. Fua
96 Pablo John F. Garcia
97 Pryde Henry A. Teves
98 Roberto C. Cajes

REGION VIII
99 Carmen L. Cari
100 Emil L. Ong
101 Eufrocino C. Codilla, Sr.
102 Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez
103 Glenn A. Chong
104 Paul R. Daza
105 Sharee Ann S. Tan
106 Teodolo M. Coquilla

REGION IX
107 Cecilia G. Jalosjos-Carreon
108 Cesar G. Jalosjos
109 Dulce Ann K. Hofer
110 Erico Basilio A. Fabian
111 Ma. Isabelle G. Climaco
112 Rosendo S. Labadlabad
113 Victor J. Yu
114 Antonio H. Cerilles

REGION X
115 Candido P. Pancrudo, Jr.
116 Herminia D. Ramiro
117 Rolando A. Uy
118 Rufus B. Rodriguez

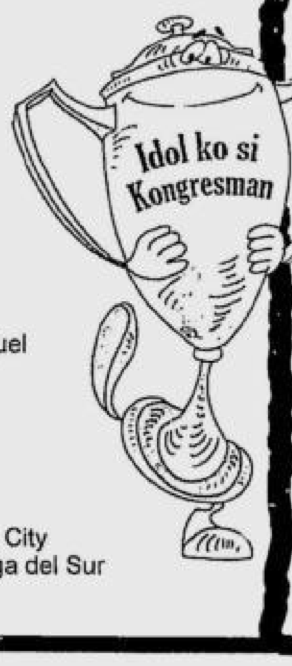
REGION XI
119 Manuel E. Zamora
120 Nelson L. Dayanghirang
121 Thelma Z. Almario

REGION XII
122 Arnulfo F. Go

CONGRESSIONAL PARTYLIST
123 Ana Theresa Hontiveros-Baraquel
124 Crispin Beltran
125 Guilermo P. Cua
126 Mariano U. Piamonte
127 Teddy Casiño

LGUs
128 Mayor Sigfrido R. Tiñga, Taguig City
129 Gov. Aurora Cerilles, Zamboanga del Sur

Idol ako ng Kongresista ko!



Fr. Ed plans to return ₱500,000 to Palace in 15 days if...

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

IF PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo does not reply to his queries on the source of the P500,000 handed to him last week in Malacañang after 15 working days, Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio sees "greater possibility" in returning the money.

A Catholic priest, Panlilio said he was not only heeding the call of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) but also abiding by provisions of the 1987 Constitution and the Administrative Code of 1987 on how donations and public funds are to be received, spent and audited.

Avelino Garon, a messenger of the provincial government, said Panlilio's letter of query to Ms Arroyo was received by Malacañang clerk Rosebeth Tayo on Tuesday afternoon. A duplicate copy was marked "received by the Office of the President of the Philippines."

A copy of the instruction sheet said: "In replying, cite R000431653." This is the number of the bar code that usually comes with official communications from Malacañang.

Asked why he was pressing for answers, Panlilio said: "For purposes of issuing an acknowledgement receipt and determining the nature of funds."

"It's possible [that we will return the money] when we don't get a reply," Panlilio said.

Return to sender

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said Malacañang could not accept the money from Panlilio and advised him to look for the woman who supposedly handed over the money to the governor.

"He should return it to her. Why return it to us? We don't know that you ever talked to that person. That's unfair and a little bit weird. I find it strange for us to find for them the people that they dealt with," Puno said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, for his part, said Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya could not issue any receipt since no government funds were involved.

"Nobody in the Palace is authorized to distribute (cash) gifts" to local officials, Bunye said.

The 15-day period for Malacañang to give a reply is based on Section 5-A of Republic Act No. 6713 or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards of Public Officials and Employees, according to provincial legal officer Maria Elissa Velez.

"There's greater possibility of returning [the money] to Malacañang when we are not told the exact source of the funds," Panlilio said.

He declined to say what he would do or to whom to return the money to in case Ms Arroyo, his province mate, refuses to answer his questions.

Search for truth

What he was only sure about is that he likes to "find out the truth."

The nature of funds must be determined so that the provincial treasurer will know whether the money will be deposited in the capitol's trust fund, if it was indeed a donation, or general fund, if it originated from calamity, social or intelligence funds.

"There was no way for me [to find out] if I had to sign a receipt for it," Panlilio said of the circumstances of how the money—coming in P1,000 bills and stacked in five bundles of P100,000 each contained in a paper gift bag—was given to him.

His accounts of what happened went this way: He was walking toward the gate of Malacañang between 4:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Oct. 11. By then, Bulacan Gov. Joselito "Jonjon" Mendoza had handed to his chief of staff, Archie Reyes, a brown paper gift bag.

Reyes rode in Panlilio's car without first checking the contents of the bag. It was while on the road that Reyes checked the bag and found money in it.

Told of this, Panlilio instructed his personal secretary to turn over the money to provincial administrator Vivian Dabu.

An hour after Panlilio's press conference on Monday, Mendoza confirmed he was the one who gave Reyes the bag that the Bulacan governor said came from a female Malacañang staff.

Who gave money?

On Wednesday, Mendoza said the woman who handed him the money was not Remedios "Medy" Poblador, a Malacañang official whose photograph appeared in other newspapers that day. "*Hindi siya* (It was not her)," he said in a text message.

Pressed on Tuesday night to recall his descriptions of the woman, Mendoza said: "*Hindi talaga. Maski* describe, *di ko magawa*. Passing *lang talaga*, on my way out (I really can't. I can't even describe her. It was a fleeting encounter on my way out)."

Panlilio said Mendoza's inability to identify the woman posed a problem to him.

"If Malacañang does not give a reply, our problem is to whom will we return the money," Panlilio said on Wednesday.

He believed that the money came from Malacañang because before he and other local officials met President Macapagal-Arroyo on Oct. 11, those who came had received information that they were going to get "help" from Malacañang.

Barangay projects

In their discussions, Mendoza had made it clear to him that the money, initially announced for use in the coming barangay elections, could also be used for barangay projects, Panlilio said.

He said he told Mendoza that he would not have accepted the money if this would be used for barangay election-related expenses. No public money could be disposed of during the election period and that the barangay candidates should be nonpartisan or not backed up by elected officials, he said.

Panlilio considered "good" the CBCP's position that the money should be returned. "I fully support that, as well as the policy of transparency."

He said he continued to believe the money was not given as a bribe because he "clearly" remembered in the meeting that the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) would neither support nor oppose the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo and that the context of his agreement with Mendoza in accepting the money was for its use in barangay projects.

The money has remained in the vault of the provincial treasurer for safekeeping, Panlilio said.

In an interview on Tuesday, Mendoza said he would follow Panlilio's lead in deciding what to do with the P500,000 given to him.

"I will abide by whatever decision Among Ed takes. If I see that his decision is good, I will follow it," he said in Filipino.

With reports from Michael Lim Ubac in Manila and Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon

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DOJ chief sees nothing wrong with Palace cash gift

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illegal act, Devanadera said the venue was not essential.

"The nature of the place is not an element of the crime. The place is not an element of the crime," she said.

Devanadera said she had no personal knowledge of where the money came from.

As for the prosecution of those involved, Devanadera said it would be difficult considering that the source of the money remained unidentified.

"The person was not identified, so how do you do it? I cannot run after a John Doe," she said.

Devanadera also does not think that the officials who accepted the cash gift could be held liable for violating the code of ethics.

"It must be specific that it is being given to undertake something illegal," she said.

Devanadera also wondered if the recipients did not ask why they were being offered money and added that she thought it must be because they did not think the money was for something illegal.

At least two provincial governors and several congressmen have reported that they received cash ranging from P200,000 to P500,000 after a meeting last week with the President in Malacañang.

Poll spending illegal

At the Commission on Elections, acting Chair Resurreccion Z. Borra reacted to reports that the cash gifts were for the barangay elections on Oct. 29. Borra said that the law barred the use of public funds for the balloting because it should be a nonpartisan activity.

Any public official found guilty of that offense, he said, could be punished with imprisonment of from one to six years, perpetual disqualification from holding public office and be deprived of the right of suffrage.

"Definitely it is prohibited ... Under the law, barangay elections are supposed to be nonpartisan," Borra said.

Public funds, he said, could be used for barangay projects. If the projects involve public works then they would still be within the public works ban, which is set by law 10 days before the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections.

In which case, public officials who would want to use these "cash gifts" for public works projects must first seek an exemption from the ban.

Ingenious in politics

While the law prohibits the use of such funds for the barangay elections, the Comelec knows that in reality, they are still being utilized in secrecy, according to Borra.

"Filipinos are most ingenious when it comes to their politics," he said.

Such an offense, Borra said, can be reported to the Comelec. The problem with these cases, he said, is that the Comelec usually has a hard time getting witnesses at the barangay level.

"Once a case is filed, there are no more witnesses," said Borra.

Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio said over the weekend that he received P500,000 from Malacañang purportedly for the barangay elections and barangay projects.

Malacañang told to heed warning on restive troops

From page A1

dent Macapagal-Arroyo had affected the rank and file.

Dolorfino said that although there had been no grumbling he could not rule out unrest in the military that could lead to a civil war.

"It may be true what he said about rank and file being affected," Biazon said at a press conference yesterday.

"They will definitely be affected considering what the soldiers know. They have been informed about the cash gifts. The soldiers know this and yet they were being told they cannot get combat pay because there are no funds. Put yourself in the shoes of soldiers, what would you think?" the senator said.

Biazon, a former chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Marine commandant, noted that Dolorfino's statement about the Malacañang gifts ostensibly contradicted a claim by Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., current AFP chief of staff, that the government had no funds to pay for the soldiers.

"Ten Marines have already been decapitated and they were promised a P150 increase in combat pay. They are waiting for that and now comes the chief of staff saying they cannot be paid," Biazon said.

The senator said that conflicting statements by two high-ranking military officials had led to a confusion among soldiers on who they should believe.

"This is a policy question. Who is lying—the commandant of Marines or chief of staff? Only one can be true," said Biazon.

Confusion

Biazon said this confusion mirrored the contradictory statements of Malacañang officials in explaining the cash gifts, which they initially denied and later admitted, then they claimed that the money was private and not public, and therefore not subject to scrutiny.

"The government must provide a credible and logical explanation to all these issues otherwise, God forbid, the prophecy of Major General Dolorfino warning the possibility of a civil war erupting could become a reality. That is very disturbing," he said.

Warning played down

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye played down Dolorfino's warning.

"We believe that the majority of the soldiers would follow the chain of command, and that they are loyal to their Commander in Chief."

Bunye said it was business as usual for Ms Arroyo who toured yesterday Camiguin province, Agusan del Sur and Butuan City to check the status of her projects and preside over a conference for peace and development.

Malacañang was also unperturbed by calls in the Senate for Ms Arroyo to step down. "The President has a mandate to serve up to 2010," Bunye said.

No need to solicit support

Presidential Political Adviser and Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, who was present during the news conference, said there was no credible threat to Ms Arroyo and that there was no need for her "to solicit expression of support."

"There is no question in anybody's mind that the majority in the House is loyal and supportive of the President," Puno said, claiming that "almost all local officials are loyal and supportive of the President."

Puno said political support to Ms Arroyo was not an issue, but there was only a "communication problem because these things coming out have been exploding all over the place."

Detained soldiers

Also yesterday, the 28 Marine and Army Scout Ranger officers linked to an alleged coup attempt in February 2006 lambasted Dolorfino for saying that the bribery attempt by Malacañang had not resulted in "grumbling" among the troops.

The group, detained in an Army camp in Tanay, Rizal, said in a statement that Dolorfino was hardly affected because he "got it so good enjoying all the perquisites dispensed by an illegitimate leadership bereft of moral scruples which perpetuates itself through bribery and corrupting others."

The group said that contrary to the claims of Dolorfino, "soldiers are deeply affected" by reports of "pervasive corruption."

Pay raise a pittance

The group lamented that while "Malacañang can afford to give every toady congressman, governor, and other local government officials half a million pesos each," it did not have funds for the soldiers who have been promised a "pittance increase in their combat pay."

The officers, led by former Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, ex-Scout Ranger chief Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, and Medal of Valor awardee Col. Ariel Querubin, have been detained for over a year for their alleged plot to withdraw support from the Arroyo administration.

They have been charged with mutiny and violations of the Articles of War.

Mayor lording it over Ulap miffs governors

From page A1

Guico was sworn in as Ulap interim president by Ms Arroyo herself in Malacañang on Oct. 11, the day several governors admitted to receiving P500,000 from a Palace functionary, supposedly for use in the upcoming barangay elections and projects.

Ulap, the umbrella organization of governors, mayors and other local officials, is one of the strongest pillars of the Arroyo administration. Among its members are the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP), League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP), League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) and the Liga ng mga Barangay sa Pilipinas.

The influential group, however, is on the brink of a leadership crisis triggered by Guico's assumption of the presidency, according to a governor, who talked to the Inquirer on condition of anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the issue.

'Only a mayor'

Reached by the Inquirer for comment, Guico admitted that some governors had questioned his being the interim president of Ulap because of his being "only a mayor." They wanted one of their own to lead the organization of different leagues of local government officials, he said.

"They said they wanted a governor to become Ulap president. But only presidents of the member leagues qualify to run as president. Since Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado (former Ulap president) did not run anymore as president of the ... (LPP), he can no longer preside over the Ulap," he said.

Guico, the three-term president of the LMP, said it became automatic for him to assume the position of interim president of Ulap because he was the organization's executive vice president.

Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno did not deny the row but said Malacañang should not be blamed for it. "That's internal (matter), the President has nothing to do with that," he said.

The unidentified governor told the Inquirer that LPP members who trooped to the Palace on Oct. 11 were at loggerheads with mayors over the selection of their new leaders.

Palace meeting

Ulap members had been summoned to Malacañang for a joint Cabinet and Regional Development Council meeting to abreast the President on the status of projects in super regions. According to Puno, Ms Arroyo's political adviser, the Department of the Interior and Local Government "in practice" allows Ulap to conduct its affairs in Malacañang independent of the President's own wishes.

But some governors were surprised to learn that before the meeting, Guico's group had managed to include in the agenda the oath-taking of Ulap's new officers, the source said. Ms Arroyo swore in Guico and the rest of the union officers.

The governor told the Inquirer that his league had not been previously informed of the induction ceremony and that Ulap's selection process was part of an "internal arrangement" approved by Malacañang.

Enraged, the governors left the main building and "borrowed a room" in the Guest House for an "emergency meeting" to plan their course of action, said the source.

"While Guico was taking his oath, the governors are really angry. We have a new president? Why, aren't we supposed to be the ones leading Ulap?" he said.

'Logical?'

"The Governors' League is the most senior and highest elective body in the Ulap, so it's logical that we should head the union. In the provinces, the governors make the decisions, not mayors," he said. "So there was very strong resistance from us."

During the meeting at the Guest House attended by 48 governors, "we expressed our strong sentiment against Mayor Guico as Ulap president. We have nothing personal against him ... but his (presidency) is against tradition and logic," the source said.

"They can question my presidency, but they cannot do anything about it," Guico said. His town, Binalonan, is second-class municipality (annual income: P27 million to P35 million) of 24 barangays and 48,967 people. It has an area of over 4,000 hectares.

Asked whether Ms Arroyo knew about the leadership crisis, the governor said: "One by one, we left the RDC meeting. Maybe, the President was later informed of our resistance."

Internal arrangement

The governor could not say whether an election took place since Misamis Occidental Gov. Leo Ocampos had assumed the Ulap presidency following the May 14 elections. An Ulap official has a term of three years, simultaneous with his or her term of office.

"We don't know if there was any election. What we know is that there's an internal arrangement among Ulap (member-leagues). Just like that, Ocampos abdicated his position in Ulap," said the governor. According to Guico, the Ulap will hold its elections for a new set of officers in March next year.

The Inquirer had earlier learned that Ocampos, widely expected to assume the Ulap leadership, was giving way Guico under a "gentleman's agreement." The mayor was believed to be aspiring for a post in an international body of local leaders in its election early next year and that being Ulap president could boost his chances of winning.

Under the "gentleman's agreement," Guico would head Ulap, replacing Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado, who would step down for health reasons. Ocampos would assume the Ulap presidency in the middle of next year.

The agreement was hatched way before the current controversy regarding alleged Palace payoffs to local leaders happened.

The Inquirer also learned that Ocampos was Aumentado's choice of successor, even taking the initiative to discuss it with the President and earning her nod. Aumentado was reportedly impressed by Ocampos' track record of stirring development in Misamis Occidental since he became governor in 2001. ***With reports from Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon, Ryan D. Rosauro, Inquirer Mindanao; and Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research***

GMA present at dole-out, says preacher-lawmaker

From page A1

of assistance from the administration party "since the President is the head of the party."

Ms Arroyo is the chair of the ruling Lakas-CMD, of which Abante is a member.

Nonetheless, Abante said he was willing to be investigated by the House committee on ethics as he joins Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco among the ranks of congressmen who openly admitted receiving cash at the Palace.

"In fact, I'm even the vice chairman of the committee ... I'm willing to inhibit myself and be investigated," Abante said.

He declined to name who among his colleagues were with him at the Malacañang breakfast table. When he was told that Cuenco had admitted receiving P200,000, he said: "I think Congressman Cuenco was at my table."

Explanation urged

With the controversy surrounding the distribution of funds, Abante said he was joining the call of Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio and Bulacan Gov. Jojo Mendoza for Malacañang to come clean about the source of the money and its purpose.

He said the distribution of the money was all right, but added "they just have to explain where it came from and its purpose," Abante said.

Abante said he came to Malacafiang around 8 a.m. Ten minutes later, Ms Arroyo arrived with Joaquin Lagunera, acting head of the legislative liaison office.

"After we shook hands with the President I already wanted to leave.... I had a flight to Davao," Abante said. "I called up somebody. I was told to stay," he added.

Abante said he thought the lawmakers would be given their allotment release orders for projects in their districts.

"We were given the paper bags," Abante said.

GMA present at distribution

Abante said the President and Lagunera were around when the paper bags were distributed.

He said he did not see anything wrong with the distribution of the money and that the President did not say what she wanted in return for it.

Did his faith as a preacher play a role in his revelation? "Oh, yes. I can't lie," Abante said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño yesterday said he hoped to appeal to his colleagues' sense of decency during a planned inquiry next month to extract confessions on who among them received cash gifts in Malacañang.

He said it would be more difficult for congressmen to lie in the presence of fellow lawmakers on the hefty amounts they had reportedly received during a gathering with President Macapagal-Arroyo last Thursday.

"The atmosphere will be different if you tell a barefaced lie in front of your colleagues who know the truth," he said in a weekly media forum in Quezon City.

Resolution calling for inquiry

Casiño on Tuesday co-sponsored a resolution seeking an investigation into the distribution of amounts ranging from P200,000 to P500,000 to congressmen in the Malacañang gathering amid a new impeachment initiative against the President.

Casiño admitted that the success of the investigation was a "long shot," considering that around 190 majority congressmen were present during the occasion. He said they comprised a good majority in the House that could easily block the investigation.

"But we are willing to be surprised," he said. "We are still hoping that there are those in the majority who still have that sense of decency, *delicadeza* (propriety), and still respect the institution."

Saying the affair was a party matter, Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles insisted that the lawmakers came only to throw their support behind the President. He said a "call to arms" was common within the coalition whenever there was a serious issue confronting the President.

That time, Speaker Jose de Venecia was laboring on whether to endorse the impeachment complaint filed by lawyer Roel Pulido against Ms Arroyo.

After a series of consultations, he eventually inhibited himself from the process and tasked Deputy Speaker Raul del Mar to do the job.

Palace urged to conduct probe

In the Senate, Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan and Sen. Manuel Roxas II said in separate interviews they preferred that Malacañang conduct its own inquiry.

Pangilinan suggested that Ms Arroyo direct the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) to find out where the money came from.

The two Liberal Party senators said they do not want the Senate to investigate congressmen for bribery, due to inter-parliamentary courtesy.

"Our challenge to Malacañang is to conduct an investigation because this allegedly occurred right inside Malacañang," Pangilinan said.

Asked whether he was in effect asking the President to investigate herself, he said: "No, I'm asking Malacañang through the President to investigate the incident."

A measure of sincerity

"They do have investigative powers. They have the PAGC. Now if they do not use their powers, it would appear they are not interested in the truth. That's when we can judge whether they are sincere or not," he continued.

Roxas also mentioned the PAGC as the investigating body. He said the Senate did not have to conduct its own fact-finding investigation.

"The Senate does not need to act on this since Malacañang can no longer deny what happened," he said. "Are they not interested to find out what happened? Are they not interested to get to the bottom of it? There is the PAGC. Why don't they apply their powers, their iron fist," said Roxas.

Earlier this week, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said he would introduce a resolution calling for a Senate inquiry into the Oct. 11 cash handouts in Malacañang. But Sen. Francis Escudero said he prefers that the Ombudsman conduct the investigation.

Pangilinan said he did not have confidence in the Ombudsman because of its failure to pin down for graft former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante in the billion-peso fertilizer scam, former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and the Commission on Elections for the botched computerization deal with Mega-Pacific Corp.

Cory, FVR, Erap deny they gave out cash during terms

From page A1

said the money was released as requested by Atienza, who was then sprucing up Plaza Miranda and the Quiapo underpass in Manila.

"As far as Mr. Atienza is concerned, I don't remember giving him cash without a receipt," Estrada said by phone from his vacation estate in Tanay, Rizal, where he has been detained since 2004.

Even Sen. Benigno Aquino III weighed in on behalf of his mother, former President Corazon Aquino, saying she never made it a habit to give visitors to Malacañang, including local officials and lawmakers, cash gifts.

Only through DBM

"The only gifts she gave were to PSG (Presidential Security Group) personnel during mass weddings where she was *ninang* (godmother). Just small amounts during birthdays and Christmas. She [also] gave personal gifts like coffee mugs or chicken liver that she cooked on special occasions," the senator said.

Ramos said that during his term, fund releases were made only through the Department of Budget and Management, and were covered by rules and regulations in accounting and audit.

"At no time in my administration did we ever get into the practice of distributing cash gifts to congressmen for whatever purpose whatsoever," he said, adding:

"I'm sorry to disappoint Secretary Atienza, but my administration was never in the habit of distributing cash gifts in envelopes or paper bags. The only times we distributed paper bags were during the Christmas season when indigent families were ushered into the Palace to receive their usual gift packs."

Actually, Ramos said, it was the incumbent mayor, Alfredo Lim, who was mayor of Manila in 1992-98.

Ramos said fund releases during his term came from the President's Contingency Fund or Social Fund, and were made solely for the purpose of supporting the infrastructure projects of congressmen under the congressional initiative allowance and/or the development assistance fund.

Lim made an unsuccessful run for the presidency in 1998. He was elected senator in 2001 and won again as mayor of Manila in this year's May elections.

Atienza was elected mayor of Manila in 1998. He ended his three terms this year.

No way

Estrada said he had never pulled a stunt like what the Arroyo administration had purportedly done—distributing cash as a "Christmas gift" to lawmakers (as Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco had claimed) and local officials.

"Never. No way. It's public money. I don't recall giving Mr. Atienza or anybody cash without proper documentation or receipts," he said, adding that he had always followed "SOPs" (standard operating procedures) when disbursing cash.

Estrada also said that whenever there was a request from a local official for financial aid, he always made sure to refer it to the budget secretary.

Atienza, a staunch ally and defender of Ms Arroyo, told reporters on Tuesday that Malacañang's purported distribution of money to congressmen and local officials on Oct. 11 was "really nothing extraordinary."

"As a mayor, I also received such financial aid," he had said, adding that he received such largesse from not only Ms Arroyo but also "different presidencies."

"The discretionary funds of Presidents are overflowing. Sharing this occasionally is a normal thing that I have personally experienced," Atienza had said.

Corruption

Atienza's remarks elicited brickbats from the leaders of two militant groups—the labor alliance Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) and the fisherfolk organization Pamalakaya.

"Corruption is so ingrained in the political system that people like Secretary Atienza can admit being a party to bribery without even [batting] an eyelash. Expect longer queues of politicians wanting to enter Malacañang and louder squabbles on who gets more," KMU chair Elmer Labog said.

Pamalakaya chair Fernando Hicap accused Atienza of unwittingly endorsing corruption: "He equates a bribe with help from the national government and the national leadership. With this kind of thinking, corruption and plunder of taxpayers' money is so easy."

Labog said that while billions of pesos were being exchanged by politicians and influence-peddlers, Filipino families in urban slums and the countryside were going to bed hungry and children were dying without receiving basic medical help.

He added: "They (government officials) jeer families who try to eat a decent meal or wear decent clothing as *maluho*, or living beyond their means, but they call bribing officials with millions of pesos normal. Talk about hypocrisy."

Additional ammo

According to Labog, Atienza's disclosures will serve as additional ammunition for a stronger impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo.

Hicap suggested that Atienza be summoned by the Senate as a "hostile witness" to elaborate on Malacañang's alleged bribery operations.

Labog said the President's discretionary fund was a clear source of corruption because the amount received by a congressman or local official would be "directly proportional to the level of subservience to [Ms Arroyo's] whim." ***Reports from Fe Zamora, Jocelyn R. Uy, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Jerome Aning***

'Angry, hurt' President orders probe of doles

From page A1

the day after bags of money were purportedly given out, she ordered the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) to conduct "a thorough investigation."

Said Puno, who is also Ms Arroyo's adviser on political affairs: "Now, for those that are suspecting that this is an invention after the fact, please interview [PAGC Chair] Connie de Guzman. She can tell you are the media people who interviewed her on an off-the-record basis on Friday, [and] before whom she admitted that she had been directed to make an investigation to erase doubts."

But the controversy over how congressmen and local officials were purportedly "fixed" to ensure the junking of the latest impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo has become so intense that certain senators started talking resignation.

In a text message sent to reporters yesterday afternoon, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel said: "Official corruption is hemorrhaging the Philippines. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is unable to stanch it. Her misgovernance pushes the Philippines on the brink of national upheaval. She should resign and turn over the government to Vice President [Noli] de Castro as caretaker until 2010."

Not gov't funds

Bunye said the "scope" of the investigation would be "to determine who was responsible for this alleged incident, and to determine the source."

"We would like to assure you that at this point, no government funds changed hands," he said.

Bunye also said the PAGC did not disclose the investigation to the media in accordance with the rules of confidentiality governing the commission.

"The PAGC has not made any announcement, but I have been authorized by the President to make the announcement," he said, adding that the results of the inquiry would be made public only by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Puno said Ms Arroyo had immediately acted on the matter to clear the air.

"She was also a little unhappy because of the perception or the accusations that she's not doing anything and allowing all of these things, [which] needed to be corrected, to go on without question," he said.

No timetable was given by the President, but Bunye issued an assurance that the Palace would not tolerate sacred cows.

"The parameters [laid out by the President] are very clear: The PAGC is mandated to find out, first, the source of the funds, and second, who are responsible for giving the funds," he said, adding:

"A definite finding will be forthcoming."

At a loss

On Tuesday, when asked by the INQUIRER about Ms Arroyo's continuing silence over the purported distribution of money bags, Puno sent this text message: "She will [make a statement] very soon. *Nagtatanong* (She's asking). *Galit na galit* (She's very angry)."

Asked yesterday to explain what he meant, Puno said: "She was asking because there were different statements coming out. None of us knew what was going on, honestly. So people were making statements, and she was wondering where everybody was getting their comments from, and wanted to find out what, if anything, anybody knew."

Puno said the President herself was at a loss about the matter:

"Frankly, honestly, none of us had a clue about what was going on. And she was upset that there was not more discussion going on, and disclosure in an organized fashion [to the] media, which is why, I suppose, she asked Secretary Bunye to make the announcement [about the PAGC investigation].

"Since we were all at a loss, I guess she wanted something really more substantive to be brought to you. And that is why she conferred with Secretary Bunye and decided to disclose that instruction that she made Friday."

Only an option

While Pimentel was forthright in saying that Ms Arroyo should resign, Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan merely said resignation was an option for her to consider in the face of the latest blot on her administration's public accountability record.

Pangilinan raised the supposed option in the course of reacting to the reported low morale among Marines as a result of the purported distribution of cash to congressmen and local executives.

"We have sunk so low in the last 20 years, unfortunately in the area of public accountability," the senator said in a press conference. "I agree up to a certain extent that the occurrences in Malacañang are proof that the situation is at its saddest and most critical."

Pangilinan said there was "a solution" to the problem: *"Magbitiw sa tungkulin* (Resign the post) and let the constitutional successor take over."

"So in that sense, if there is real anxiety over the prospect of a civil war, it's simple—let us look at what constitutional options are available. Resignation is still available to avert a civil war, if it is true that that is what is being feared because of the allegations of corruption and bankruptcy in our political situation and leadership," he said.

'Reform now'

Other senators said their piece on how Ms Arroyo should address the situation.

According to Sen. Panfilo Lacson, time is running out on the President.

"The country cannot afford any more unconstitutional changing of the guard, lest we live up to become Asia's most prominent 'banana republic. I cannot help but give advice, unsolicited as it is, to Mrs. Arroyo: Reform now. Your time may be running out," he said.

In Lacson's view, what was troubling was that the people had become numb to "the spectacle of brazen stealing, shameless lying, and unprecedented hubris by any leader of this country."

"If Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., an acknowledged supporter and ally of this administration, can speak of Mrs. Arroyo's 'numbness to corruption,' what can the rest of our people think of their President?" Lacson said.

Sen. Francis Escudero said not only the Ombudsman but also the Anti-Money Laundering Council should look into the alleged bribes considering that the amounts mentioned went as high as P500,000.

"These withdrawals should have triggered a red flag from the banks. We have to get the serial numbers of the bundles of cash given in Malacanang," Escudero said.

Upset

Puno answered in the affirmative when asked if the President was "upset" over the reportage on the purported distribution of cash, instead of her meeting with members of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap).

"Yes, exactly," he said. "She was saying, 'You know, that was an Ulap oath-taking affair. People were not even talking about the fact that the local officials were into a discussion with the Cabinet to discuss the development projects in their respective areas.'"

He said Ms Arroyo had lamented that "the substantive character of that day's action was lost."

As for the object of the President's anger, Puno said she was being unfairly linked to the supposed attempt to bribe local officials into killing the impeachment complaint lodged against her by lawyer Roel Pulido.

"You might have noticed that so many scathing statements were made ... Everybody is human, and you will get hurt if you get very, very negative comments from a situation that is clearly unclear," he said.

Puno also pointed out that Ms Arroyo's order for an inquiry preceded the statement on Tuesday of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines calling on local officials to admit having received money from Malacañang, as Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio had done.

He said Ms Arroyo had at first deemed it unwise to issue an official reaction to the purported distribution of cash:

"No need for an official statement because to begin with, this was an affair of the different leagues. In the case of Congress, it was a meeting of Congress, so Congress is supposed to be the one to answer..."

He also said all the reports of bribery were from "congressmen insisting that the money came from office of the Speaker."

"So why will Malacañang [issue] an official statement in that regard?" he said. ***With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.***

More Sports stories on A25 to 28

Late SPORTS

Phone Pals, Giants score

GAMES TOMORROW (*Cuneta Astrodome*)
4:35 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Welcoat
7:20 p.m.—Red Bull vs Barangay Ginebra

By June Navarro

THE MOTIVATIONAL PLOY COACH Tim Cone formulated for his Alaska Aces didn't work.

Talk 'N Text used its manpower advantage to the hilt and clobbered Alaska, 113-106, last night in the Smart-PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Asi Taulava, Renren Ritualo and Jimmy Alapag anchored the Phone Pals on both ends of the floor and perfectly blended with the players left on the Talk 'N Text roster during their stint in the national team as they took a win in a game that featured the finalists of the previous conference.

Jay Washington and Harvey Carey were just as sturdy inside the shaded area while Mac Cardona, who led the Phone Pals in scoring in the best-of-seven Fiesta Cup finals that went the distance against the Aces, was also unstoppable with his incursions.

"It's either you bump or you get bumped," said said Talk 'N Text coach Dindo Pumaren, referring to the new rules that attract physical play. "We got to play tougher this time because of the new rules."

Purefoods, on the other hand, showed it could survive with the new rules as the Giants scored a 96-89 victory over Sta. Lucia in the first game.

"From now on, we will put more emphasis on physical toughness," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio.

"It has become physical out there so we have to be serious in our weight training," said James Yap, who finished with 29 points. "This is the first time that I really got furious."

The TJ Giants had actually gone through a total of nine technical fouls, two ejections, a handful of flagrant fouls and countless near-brawl situations before putting the Realtors away.

The scores:

First Game

PUREFOODS 96—J. Yap 29, R. Yap 16, Pingris 14, Simon 9, Raymundo 9, Salvador 8, Adducul 4, Lanete 3, Sanz 2, Larong 2, Evangelista 0.

STA. LUCIA 89—Williams 19, Coronel 12, Yeo 11, Espino 11, Mendoza 11, Daa 8, Reyes 8, Omolon 6, Gonzales 3, Miranda 0, Aquino 0.

Quarters: 31-29, 47-52, 66-76, 96-89

Second Game

TALK N TEXT 113—Washington 20, Taulava 19, Carey 15, De Ocampo 13, Alapag 11, Ritualo 9, Belano 8, Cardona 7, Allado 6, Aljamal 5.

ALASKA 106—Miller 35, Dela Cruz 13, Thoss 12, Quinahan 10, Ferriols 9, Bono 7, Hugnatan 7, Cortez 7, Cariaso 4, Laure 2, Cabatu 0, Juinio 0.

Quarters: 22-23, 59-45, 87-70, 113-106

MARK Pingris (right) of Purefoods and Nelbert Omolon of Sta. Lucia refuse to yield in this battle for possession. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

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MEGALINK

RP women rip S'pore

THE PHILIPPINES-CEBUANA LHUILLIER women's team moved one win away from topping the elimination round of the South East Asian Basketball (Seaba) championship in Phuket after beating Singapore, 78-59, Wednesday in Phuket.

A win against Malaysia today will give the Nationals the top spot and set a duel against Indonesia in the semifinal on Friday.

On Tuesday, the Philippines dumped Indonesia, 70-54, for its second straight win.

Earlier, host Thailand beat Malaysia, 77-70, as the Philippines remained the only unbeaten squad in the tournament.

Malaysia and Thailand are tied in second place at 2-1 while Singapore is winless in three outings.

Cassy Tioseco and Minerva Narciza led the balanced offensive game of the Nationals against Indonesia with 11 points apiece. Tioseco also grabbed 7 rebounds.

Fil-Am Vicky Brick contributed 9 points and 8 rebounds, while Diane Jose chipped in 6 points.

"If we beat Malaysia, we sweep the round and take first place," said coach Fritz Gaston. "Definitely, we are in a good position now."

Pumaren named year's top coach

THE DE LA SALLE GREEN ARCHERS AND THE San Beda Red Lions topped their respective collegiate leagues this season.

So it's just apt that when the UAAP and NCAA Press Corps hold the 2007 Collegiate Basketball Awards presented by Anta on Oct. 25 at the Manila Pavilion, the bulk of the awardees will come from the two schools.

La Salle's Franz Pumaren was named the Coach of the Year in Season 70 after steering the Taft-based school to an improbable sweep of University of the East.

Rogemar Menor and Yousif Aljamal, on the other hand, spearheaded the Lions' Season 83 title conquest and earned their share of awards.

Menor, the reigning Finals MVP, was the hands down choice as San Miguel Scoring Champion. Aljamal, who is now with Talk N' Text, was voted to the elite Anta Mythical Five of the UAAP and NCAA combined, along with NCAA MVP Kelvin dela Peña, UAAP MVP Jervy Cruz, UE's Mark Borboran and Ateneo de Manila's Chris Tiu.

JV Casio was Menor's counterpart in the UAAP while teammate Cholo Villanueva bagged the Mr. Clutch plum, an award given to a player who has a penchant for taking and making the biggest shots for his team the whole season.

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Website: www.inquirer.net/metro
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

No rubout angle in Beltran case, say cops

But family to pursue probe of accident

By Tina G. Santos

MANILA TRAFFIC INVESTIGATORS YESTERDAY concluded that the vehicular mishap involving Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran Tuesday morning was an accident.

"We can already consider the case closed. Based on our investigation, it was just an accident," SP02 Sergio Macaraeg of the Manila Police District Traffic Enforcement Unit, told the INQUIRER.

He also ruled out Beltran's claim that the incident could have been an attempt on his life following his recent exposés against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Beltran earlier said that he wanted policemen to conduct a thorough investigation of the incident.

"If it's an accident, then I leave it all to God. If it was not, well the government has 1,100 reasons for seeing I am out of the way, including this accident," he said.

An investigation showed that Beltran's Toyota Hi-ace van, driven by Jimmy Miranda, collided with a Ford Everest driven by Bernard Madrona at the corner of Juan Luna and Victoria Streets at around 9:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Beltran sustained a cut near his left eye, on the bridge of his nose and a big bruise on his left shoulder. His driver suffered bruises in the legs and feet.

Macaraeg said they could not say categorically who was to blame, adding that it appeared the two camps would resolve the matter out of court. He noted that both parties had not admitted responsibility for the mishap.

"I think Mr. Madrona already apologized to the family and expressed willingness to cooperate in the investigation. Both camps have agreed to an amicable settlement," Macaraeg added.

After staying overnight at the Philippine General Hospital, Beltran was released yesterday afternoon. "The doctor advised him to go home. He's already in a stable condition and he's recovering fast," said Beltran's daughter, Ofelia Balleta .

His driver, however, will remain confined at the hospital for more laboratory tests. They do not consider the case closed.

"We still want a thorough investigation of the incident. After all, my father is not an ordinary person. I hope the other party understands how affected we are by this," she said. "But we're counting on Mr. Madrona's claim that he is, as he described himself, 'just a simple man.'"

Balleta also stressed that they would demand the payment of damages from Madrona and possible settle it out of court. "We want to clarify that it wasn't our fault. Our vehicle was the one wrecked. My father and his driver were the ones taken to the hospital for treatment."

PUBLIC SERVICE EDWIN BACASMAS
Inmates of the Makati City Jail perform a dance number for members of the Public Attorneys Office which conducted a medical mission at the facility yesterday. PAO lawyers also offered free legal advice to prisoners regarding their cases (inset) during a consultation.

Dispute between mayor, governor on landfill not yet over

By Kristine L. Alave

RODRIGUEZ MAYOR PEDRO Cuerpo yesterday reiterated that the 19-hectare landfill in his town which was recently opened by the Rizal provincial government was illegal and that he was considering taking legal action to stop its operations.

Cuerpo said the sanitary landfill that Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares III ordered opened two weeks ago lacks the required documents.

"It's illegal as far as the local government is concerned because it doesn't have permits from us," he added.

Cuerpo also noted that the landfill has no Environmental Compliance Certificate from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Asked if he would file charges to stop its operations, the mayor said, "Our lawyers are studying it."

According to Cuerpo, Metro Manila is safe from a garbage crisis as the two landfills in the town have been operating since last week.

On Friday, Cuerpo opened the older, 14-hectare dump adjacent to the new one, resisting Ynares' order to close it. The old landfill accommodates most of Metro Manila's trash.

DID YOU KNOW

THE PHILIPPINE Assembly was inaugurated on Oct. 16, 1907 at the Grand Opera House on Plaza Cervantes in Sta. Cruz, Manila. It was one of two legislative bodies at the time, the other being the Philippine Commission. Members of the Philippine Commission were appointed by the US President while members of the Philippine Assembly were elected by qualified voters in their respective districts. The setup was changed in 1916 with the establishment of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

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Marine chief's double-talk

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

MAJ. GEN. BEN DOLORFINO, Philippine Marine Corps commandant, made a statement about his men that was the height of inconsistency and double-talk.

Dolorfino said allegations that Malacañang had bribed congressmen and local officials had affected the Marines, but that he had not yet heard of grumbling from his men.

How could the Marine commandant have known that his men were affected if he had not heard or felt grumbling from the ranks?

* * *

The fact is, according to my sources within the Corps, troop morale has hit rock bottom.

So low is the morale among the elite troops that most of them, who have served 20 years when they can already choose optional retirement, are abandoning the Corps.

This hasn't happened before, according to Marine old-timers.

A Marine so loved the camaraderie that he stuck to the Corps until he was forced to retire at age 56 or after staying in the service for 30 years.

* * *

My sources told me that whenever Marines enlisted personnel in the barracks see President Gloria on television, they howl and shout unprintable words.

Of course, they do that in the absence of an officer.

But there are some officers who even tolerate that kind of behavior.

Why are the Marines, supposedly the best-disciplined soldiers among the armed services, behaving that way?

"The boys feel the leadership is not doing anything to avenge those who ambushed and mutilated their comrades in Basilan," said a Marine officer.

The same officer said that the rank-and-file feel they have lost their best officers who are now in jail on suspicion they took part in an alleged attempted coup two years ago.

Two of the jailed officers are recipients of the Medal of Valor. Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, one of the Corps' most popular commandants, is also in jail.

The Philippine Marines founding anniversary is a few days away, Nov. 9, but the mood in the Corps is somber.

It would be better for President Gloria not to attend the anniversary rites because she will surely feel the ill feelings of the troops toward her.

* * *

"How could you respect a Commander in chief who promises to increase the combat pay of soldiers, but then turns around and orders the CS (Armed Forces Chief of Staff) to tell the men there is no money to pay the increase?" said a Marine master sergeant.

He was referring to the promise the President made to troops in Zamboanga City several months ago that she would add P150 a month to their combat pay.

However, AFP chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said several days ago there were no funds for such increase.

Ah, but soldiers should not take their President seriously.

Didn't she also promise before the Rizal Shrine at the Luneta that she wouldn't run in the 2004 presidential election?

* * *

Cavite Register of Deeds Napoleon P. Gatmaytan Jr., who was featured in this space Tuesday, has been charged before the Office of the Ombudsman for antigraft and corrupt practices.

Despite a final judgment by the Cavite Regional Trial Court and confirmed by the Court of Appeals, he allegedly transferred 30.7 hectares of land along Aguinaldo Highway worth P2.5 billion to private individuals.

The property in question belonged to a prominent person.

Gatmaytan is a protégé of Administrator Benedicto Ulep of the Land Registration Authority (LRA), who is said to profess links to a political heavyweight.

NEW BUILDING NEEDS DONORS
Doris Rodriguez leads other members of the board of directors of the Pasay City Red Cross in the groundbreaking ceremonies for a new building. The board, which is headed by Dr. Cesar Santiago, is planning to build a two-story structure worth P5.4 million but is still looking for donors. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Owners of getaway cars in QC rob named

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

THE POLICE HAVE IDENTIFIED THE owners of two cars used as getaway vehicles by six armed robbers who stole money from a bank in Quezon City Monday.

According to the Quezon City Police District, a check with the Land Transportation Office showed that one of the cars, a green Honda Civic (UCW 153), was registered in the name of Felino Baltazar Pinlac Jr., a resident of Reyes Street in Little Baguio, San Juan City.

However, Capt. JR Ingco, one of the case lead investigators, told the INQUIRER that Pinlac sold the car before he migrated to Singapore several years ago.

Ingco said they are trying to determine who bought the car from Pinlac. The owner of the other getaway vehicle, a white Toyota (WPX 688), was identified as Rodrigo S. Yuson, a resident of Samantha Lane Paradise in Angeles City, Pampanga.

The plate number, however, originally belonged to a Hyundai Starex van, prompting the police to believe that the suspects could have stolen the license plates.

Ingco added that they have not yet considered the owners of the getaway vehicles as suspects.

Last Monday, six armed robbers, including a woman, barged into the United Coconut Planters Bank branch on E. Rodriguez corner Judge Jimenez Streets in Cubao, Quezon City at around 10:30 a.m.

A bank depositor later identified the woman as Annaliza Sales, who, according to authorities, was also involved in previous bank robberies.

They added that Sales is a member of the Amparo Group involved in kidnap for ransom activities.

Ingco said the bank's branch manager, Jesus Vargas, with four other bank officials, have already filed charges of robbery against Sales and the other suspects who have yet to be identified.

Ingco estimated that the suspects were able to get almost P500,000 in cash from the tellers' drawers and eight cell phones worth P100,000 from bank employees and depositors.

The suspects failed to open the bank vault as it was equipped with a time delay system.

METROBRIEFS

Butcher stabbed to death

A BUTCHER bled to death after he was stabbed by a still unidentified attacker late Tuesday night in Quezon City. Gaddi Fillartos, 21, a stay-in worker of the Nepa Q-mart at the corner of Edsa and Ermin Garcia Avenue in Cubao, was declared dead on arrival at the East Avenue Medical Center of two stab wounds in the neck. Reports from the Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit said that passersby found the victim lying bloodied in front of a water store on Montreal Street in Barangay E. Rodriguez, Cubao. Ramon Concepcion, the victim's friend, and a tricycle driver rushed him to the hospital where Fillartos later died due to loss of blood. Investigators have not identified any suspect in the victim's death.

Jeannette I. Andrade

Taxi rob gang member arrested

A MEMBER of a notorious taxi robbery group was arrested on Monday night in Valenzuela City although three other suspects were able to escape. Based on a police report, Michael Paredes, 20, was arrested on Que Grande Street by responding policemen after he and his companions held up a taxi driver. The suspects were later spotted by policemen near the crime scene. The taxi driver, Ricardo Palencia, 42, positively identified Paredes as one of the men who robbed him of his earnings at knife point. His cell phone was also recovered from the suspect.

Nancy Carvajal

413 street dwellers rounded up

AUTHORITIES rounded up on Tuesday night over 400 street dwellers as part of the anti-criminality campaign of the Manila Police District. According to Supt. Roderick Mariano, chief of the MPD's District Anti-Illegal Drugs, of the 413 street dwellers arrested, 331 were adults and 82 were minors. Many of those arrested were "rugby boys" or solvent sniffers. "The adults were subjected to drug tests and some of them are now in the custody of different police stations while the minors were brought to the Department of Social Welfare and Development," he said. He added that the operation was conducted by Manila policemen and agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency. Mariano said 55 of those arrested were taken to the Rescue Action Center, 26 to the Fabella Hospital while three were taken to the National Center for Mental Health in Mandaluyong City. During the operation, the street dwellers were initially brought to the Quirino Grandstand in Rizal Park where the adults underwent drug testing and the children were given vitamins and medicine.

Tina G. Santos

Arts, antique show at San Juan

THE 14th NATIONAL Arts and Antique Show is on its last day today at the Greenhills Shopping Complex in San Juan City. The 24-day show is a project of the Prime Asia Trade Planners and Convention Organizers, a top trade fair and consumer exhibit organizer. For budget-conscious shoppers, flea market or *tiangges* are the best place to shop. There are several *tiangges* in Metro Manila, but the best *tiangge* to visit is Greenhills Shopping Complex where several manufacturers, suppliers, exporters, importers, distributors and other traders are exhibitors.

South Metro police chiefs told to check barangays for polls

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE SOUTHERN POLICE DISTRICT HAS ORDERED the police chiefs of Pasay, Muntinlupa and Taguig to evaluate the barangays under their jurisdiction that had been tagged as possible areas of concern in connection with the Oct. 29 barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

Chief Supt. Luizo Ticman, SPD director, said he has instructed the police officials to monitor the areas under their jurisdiction and to ensure the peaceful conduct of the synchronized elections.

Senior Supt. Marietto Valerio is the police chief of Pasay City, Supt. Alfred Corpus heads the Taguig City police while Supt. Alfredo Valdez is the top police official in Muntinlupa City.

The National Capital Region Police Office the other day said it would be keeping an eye on several barangays in Quezon City and the cities of Pasay, Muntinlupa and Taguig for the possible outbreak of election-related incidents.

But Chief Supt. Eric Javier, NCRPO deputy chief for administration, said they do not yet consider these areas election "hotspots" based on the guidelines issued by the Commission on Elections.

He was referring to Barangays Payatas, Commonwealth, Holy Spirit and Batasan in Quezon City; Maharlika Village in Taguig; Putatan in Muntinlupa and Maricaban and Malibay in Pasay.

Ticman said he would meet with various election officials and SPD police chiefs on Friday to coordinate the security measures for the Oct. 29 polls.

The SPD covers the cities of Pasay, Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, Parañaque, Taguig, Makati and the town of Pateros.

"We are laying out the necessary preparatory work to ensure peaceful elections. I have ordered the police chiefs to do all that it takes to maintain peace and order," Ticman said.

YOUNG SCAVENGER
Instead of being in school, a boy spends his time in a dump in Tondo, Manila, looking for scrap metal, plastics and other items which he can later sell. EDWIN BACASMAS

Austerity measures for City Hall—Lim

By Allison W. Lopez

THE MANILA CITY GOVERNMENT yesterday asked its employees to practice austerity by adopting cost-cutting measures after it incurred a "huge" budget deficit.

"All concerned employees are expected to contribute their share and exert due diligence to help ensure the conservation and judicious use of the city's budget," secretary to the mayor Rafaelito Garayblas said in a memorandum to all department, bureau and office heads.

He added that City Hall employees could help save money in the use of utilities; in the purchase of office supplies and materials; gasoline, traveling, communication and training expenses; and equipment and capital outlay and expenses for special programs, projects and activities.

Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim earlier directed Garayblas to issue the memorandum to ensure that the city's limited resources would be maximized.

The city government reportedly incurred a budget deficit after the P3 billion in savings left by the previous administration were found to have already been allocated for other expenses.

Lim's directive was also in line with Administrative Order 103 issued by President Macapagal-Arroyo calling on government offices to continue adopting austerity measures.

Binay recalls citizens' stand during Makati siege

By DJ Yap

EXACTLY A YEAR AFTER HE WAS NEARLY driven out of the Makati City Hall, Mayor Jejomar Binay told his constituents yesterday that he would always remain a strong critic of the Arroyo administration.

Binay, who is also president of the United Opposition, led a commemoration of the suspension order served on him on Oct. 17, 2006, in what many had perceived as an attempt by Malacañang to remove him from office.

"This is a tribute to the ordinary people who stood by and fought for truth and justice when it was threatened by darkness," Binay said. "As long as justice is being trampled on by the powers that be, we will continue our quest. We will not waver in our determination."

In a separate press statement, he said he hoped Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio, who admitted he was given P500,000 by Palace officials last week, would not suffer a similar fate.

"In the eyes of Malacañang, Governor Panlilio is now an enemy of the administration and I suspect they intend to deal with him in the same manner that they have dealt with critical local officials," Binay said.

"It would really be another sad day for our country if Malacañang suspends a local official for being honest," he said, citing what he called the President's "vindictive nature."

Panlilio's revelations led to allegations that the cash gifts to local officials were meant to ensure their loyalty to the President in the midst of new attempts to impeach her, following controversies over allegedly anomalous government deals like the ZTE-National Broadband Network Deal.

Last year, Binay, Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado, and 16 councilors were handed a 60-day suspension order by the interior department based on a complaint that Binay was keeping ghost employees at City Hall.

But the mayor's camp later managed to get an injunction after barricading themselves at City Hall, blocking police and interior officials from entering the premises and serving the order.

NEW INQUIRER CIRCULATION OFFICE EUGENE ARANETA
INQUIRER chair Marixi R. Prieto (right), senior vice president Rene Reinoso and assistant vice president Simon Yap cut the ribbon during the opening of the new INQUIRER circulation and classifieds office on T. M. Kalaw, Manila. INQUIRER president Sandy P. Romualdez (partly hidden) also attended the event.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

BURMA CRACKDOWN

UN dares Asean to turn rhetoric into real action

KUALA LUMPUR—UN SPECIAL envoy Ibrahim Gambari wants Southeast Asian nations to turn their rhetoric on Burma (Myanmar) into real action to achieve reforms, a senior source briefed by the diplomat said on Wednesday.

The diplomatic source said Gambari wants to "see what Asean governments are really prepared to do" to resolve the crisis in Burma following its violent crackdown on anti-government protesters.

"It is not enough for Asean countries to make statements expressing concern. They must now work together with the UN, China and India," the source told AFP, referring to the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Asean groups Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

"Gambari wants Asean to be really involved in monitoring what is happening in Burma, not just statements from conference to conference." The source was briefed by Gambari in Malaysia, where the UN envoy arrived Tuesday on a regional tour.

The regime in Burma has come under heavy international pressure since it violently suppressed pro-democracy protests last month led by Buddhist monks, triggering condemnation from around the world.

Gambari's regional tour is aimed at increasing pressure on the ruling junta to halt its suppression of the peaceful rallies, release political detainees and launch talks with the pro-democracy opposition.

The diplomatic source said the Nigerian-born envoy wanted Southeast Asian governments—who have been criticized in the past for failing to tackle their troublesome neighbor—to step up to a new level of engagement on Burma.

"Asean members must be persistent and monitor, and make sure that expected discussions between the Burmese government and the opposition and other parties actually take place," he said.

"In the past, this was all left to the Burmese government. This must now change."

Malaysia's Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said on Tuesday after talks with Gambari that the envoy had the full support of Asean, but that the bloc would never suspend Burma from the grouping.

"If you want Burma to continue to be engaged, first we should not be talking about suspending. Nobody can talk when you are threatening with all sorts of things," he said. *AFP*

GAMBARI AFP

UK, France step up pressure on Burma

BRITAIN AND FRANCE YESTERDAY called on countries and citizens around the world to maintain their fierce condemnation of the brutal Burmese regime and to accelerate the pressure for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners.

In a bold joint declaration, British Foreign Minister David Miliband and French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner demanded that the rulers of Burma (Myanmar) reveal the whereabouts of the monks and other people who have been arrested since August 2007, and to end their regime of brutality and political impunity.

"The immediate priority is to end the violence and secure the release of all of the political detainees. At the same time, it is vital that the regime works urgently with the UN Special Envoy Ibrahim Gambari to establish a genuine process of national reconciliation. That process will of course need to be very different from the widely discredited "National Convention Process" over which the regime has labored for many years without winning the confidence of Burma's population. It must involve Aung San Suu Kyi and the leaders of all Burma's political opposition and ethnic groups: and it must have international legitimacy, with the UN and Burma's neighbors closely engaged," the joint statement said.

The United Kingdom has waged an aggressive and determined campaign to seek an end to political repression and the violation of human rights in Burma, calling on China, India, and Asean to heed the international community and to work together to prevent a further escalation of the regime's brutality against its people.

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown last week led Europe in denouncing the Burmese junta, calling on them to "stand down, the time of impunity is over."

"Given the appalling record of the regime in turning guns on its own people, no country should want to supply it with weapons. We already have, with our EU partners, a complete arms embargo on Burma."

Putin warns US against military strike on Iran

TEHRAN—PRESIDENT VLADIMIR Putin made clear to Washington on Tuesday that Russia would not accept military action against Iran and he invited Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to Moscow for talks.

Putin made the invitation to Ahmadinejad, shunned by the West which fears his nuclear program is a cover for building atomic weapons, after meeting him and leaders of other Caspian Sea states who ruled out any strikes on Iran from their region.

Dates for Ahmadinejad's visit would be arranged through diplomatic channels, RIA news agency quoted a statement by the two leaders as saying.

Earlier, in comments aimed at the United States, Putin said during his talks in Iran: "We should not even think of using force in this region." "We need to agree that using the territory of one Caspian Sea (state) in the event of aggression against another is impossible," he told the presidents of Iran, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan at a summit of Caspian Sea states.

Western nations accuse Tehran of seeking atomic weapons, a charge Tehran denies. Washington has refused to rule out the use of force if diplomacy fails to resolve the row.

Asked about Russia's invitation to Ahmadinejad, a US State Department official said: "It's up to the Russians to determine how they want to manage their bilateral relations with Iran."

Putin's remarks about territory also appeared aimed at ex-Soviet Azerbaijan, where the US military has inspected airfields. Russian media have suggested Washington might be trying to negotiate the right to use its military facilities. Baku denies this. *Reuters*

China resentful of Bush meeting with Dalai Lama

BEIJING—CHINA LASHED out on Wednesday at US President George W. Bush's private meeting with the Dalai Lama, saying it strongly resented what it termed a gross interference in its internal affairs.

"China is strongly resentful of this and resolutely opposes it, and has made solemn representations to the US side," foreign ministry spokesperson Liu Jianchao said, according to the official Xinhua news agency.

"We (have) seriously urged the US side to correct such wrongdoings and stop interfering in China's internal affairs in any form." He described Tuesday's meeting between Bush and the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader as a "gross interference in China's internal affairs."

The Dalai Lama is also on Wednesday due to receive from Bush the highest civilian award that the US Congress can bestow—the Congressional Gold Medal—at a lavish awards ceremony in Washington.

It will be the first time a sitting US president has appeared in public with the Dalai Lama.

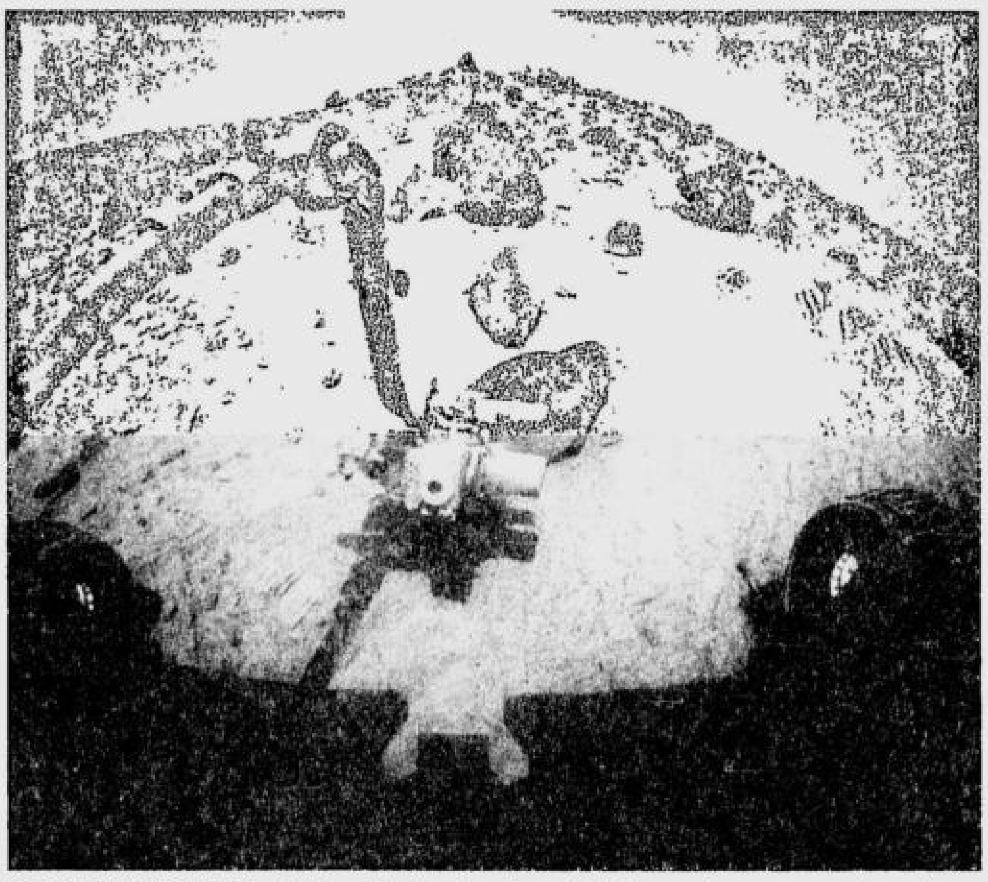
Liu also reiterated China's position that the Dalai Lama was intent on trying to achieve independence for his homeland, despite the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize winner insisting he wants only autonomy under Chinese rule.

"Tibet is an inalienable part of the Chinese territory, and the Tibet issue is purely China's internal affairs," he said.

"The words and deeds of the Dalai Lama in the past decades show he is a political refugee engaging in secessionist activities in the camouflage of religion."

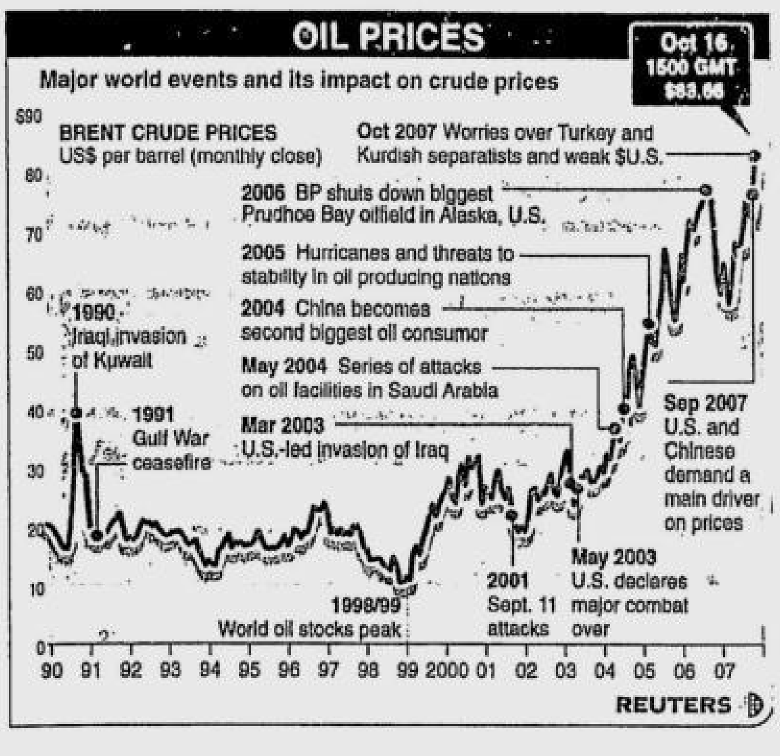
China has ruled Tibet, a devoutly Buddhist land, since sending troops into the region in 1950, and officially "liberating" it a year later.

The Dalai Lama fled to India following a failed uprising in 1959 and currently lives in the northern hill town of Dharamsala, which is also the seat of his government in exile. *AFP*



MARTIAN PROBE. Nasa's Mars Exploration Rover Spirit examines a group of angular rocks given informal names corresponding to peaks in the Colorado Rockies. Spirit used its front hazard-identification camera to capture this wide-angle view of its robotic arm extended to a rock informally named "Humboldt Peak" on the southern edge of the "Home Plate" platform in the inner basin of the Columbia Hills inside Gusev Crater. AP

World oil prices ease after surging past $88



LONDON—OIL PRICES DIPPED ON Wednesday as traders took profits from the previous session's rally to a new record high above $88 a barrel.

The surge, driven by an inflow of investor money, tension in northern Iraq and tight fuel supplies in the United States, has taken prices near their inflation-adjusted peak of 1980.

US officials fear damage to an economy already coping with fall-out from the subprime loan crisis.

After surging more than 10 percent in six straight days of gains, US crude fell 31 cents to $87.30 at 0920 GMT. Prices gained $1.48 on Tuesday and touched a new intra-day high of $88.20, their third record peak in a row.

London Brent crude fell 35 cents to $83.20.

"The market is still very much focused on the Turkey-Iraq tensions for the short-term but I believe it is overvalued by at least $10 and will probably come off within the week," said Makoto Takeda of Tokyo's Bansei Securities.

The Turkish parliament is expected on Wednesday to grant its troops permission to launch an attack inside Iraqi territory, despite international pressure not to.

The tensions are seen as dimming hopes for a recovery in Iraqi oil exports via Turkey, which have been sporadic since 2003, but traders say the greater fear is the risk of unsettling the Middle East region, which pumps a third of the world's oil.

The impact of the geopolitical risk was magnified by concerns that Opec's 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) output rise may be too little too late to maintain healthy supplies through the winter, with refiners revving up to meet peak demand.

"Even when they start pumping in November, it's not much, I'm surprised they're not coming under more pressure," said Dariusz Kowalczyk, chief investment strategist at CFC Seymour.

US crude stocks are expected to rise another 900,000 barrels in weekly data due for release later on Wednesday, while distillate inventories—which include heating fuel—should ease by 400,000 barrels, a Reuters poll found. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Libya elected to UN Council

UNITED NATIONS—Libya, once a pariah of the West, took a giant stride back to global respectability when it was elected along with four other countries on Tuesday to a two-year term on the United Nations Security Council. The United States, which had used its influence to foil previous Libyan attempts in 1995 and 2000 to win a coveted seat on the powerful council, took no similar action this year, diplomats from other countries said. Libya, Vietnam and the West African state of Burkina Faso easily obtained a two-thirds majority after being endorsed by regional groupings to stand unopposed for the three nonpermanent seats available for African and Asian nations. Also elected were Croatia and Costa Rica. ***Reuters***

7 Iraqi police killed

BAGHDAD—A roadside bomb killed seven Iraqi police near the city of Diwaniyah, south of Baghdad, on Wednesday, military officials said. One officer was among those killed when the police vehicle was hit by the blast on the main road between Diwaniyah and the town of Afak to the east, the officials said. The explosion happened shortly after midnight when the patrol was on its way to Afak police station, which had come under earlier attack. There was no immediate word on the identity of the attackers. ***AFP***

Nasa extends Mars probes

WASHINGTON—Nasa on Tuesday announced it was extending for the fifth time the mission of Mars space probes Spirit and Opportunity, in their indefatigable exploration of the Red planet. The two robots touched down three weeks apart on Mars in January 2004 for an expected 90-day mission that instead could stretch out to 2009, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said on its website. In September, Opportunity began a perilous descent into the Victoria crater, in Mars' Meridiani Planum region. ***AFP***

Canada to exit Afghanistan in 2011

OTTAWA—Prime Minister Stephen Harper on Tuesday proposed maintaining Canada's military in Afghanistan until 2011, as opposition parties warned of a possible snap election if troops do not exit soon. The minority Conservatives' timetable was unveiled in an address to parliament delivered by Governor General Michaelle Jean, laying out its upcoming legislative agenda. On Harper's behalf, the governor general said, "Our government does not believe that Canada should simply abandon the people of Afghanistan after February 2009," Canada's current commitment. ***AFP***

Turkey readies for incursion

ANKARA—Turkey's parliament was poised on Wednesday to grant its army permission to enter northern Iraq to crush Kurdish separatist rebels based there, but Iraqi leaders stepped up a diplomatic offensive to avert any attack. The United States, Turkey's Nato ally, is also strongly opposed to military action, fearing it will destabilize the most peaceful part of Iraq and possibly the wider region by encouraging other neighbors such as arch-foe Iran to intervene. Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan has played down expectations of an imminent attack, but the parliamentary vote will effectively give Nato's second biggest army a free hand to cross the mountainous border as and when it sees fit. ***Reuters***

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

GUIDELINES FOR MASS MEDIA ACCREDITATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE OCTOBER 29, 2007 SYNCHRONIZED BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS.
x-----------------x

BORRA, Resurreccion Z.	Acting Chairman
TUASON, Florentino Jr. A.	Commissioner
BRAWNER, Romeo A.	Commissioner
SARMIENTO, Rene V.	Commissioner
FERRER, Nicodemo T.	Commissioner

Promulgated: 16 October 2007

RESOLUTION NO. 8335

WHEREAS, duly accredited mass media should be given free access to polling places, and counting/canvassing centers for purposes of observing and reporting on election events and processes;

WHEREAS, it is expected that the 2007 Barangay and *Sangguniang Kabataan* Elections will generate great media attention, both foreign and domestic, and that a great number of requests for media accreditation will be filed by domestic and foreign media;

WHEREAS, there is a need to increase the efficiency with which applications for accreditation are filed and processed;

WHEREAS, there is an equal need to increase the efficiency with which grants of accreditation are recorded and tracked so as to avoid the proliferation of spurious accreditation papers or media passes;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, Republic Act No. 9164 as amended by Republic Act No. 9340 and other election laws, the Commission on Elections has **RESOLVED,** as it hereby **RESOLVES,** to promulgate the filing guidelines for mass media accreditation, as follows:

SECTION 1. ***Declaration of Policy.*** – It is the policy of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) to ensure accurate reporting about the conduct and results of the 2007 Synchronized Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections by providing maximum access to all stages of the electoral process to accredited media representatives subject only to conditions essential for the protection of COMELEC personnel, property, and privileged information.

Media representatives are defined as those who are actively engaged in the pursuit of information gathering and reporting or distribution, in any manner or form, including:

- Print Journalists
- Television Journalists
- Photo Journalists
- Online Journalists
- Radio Journalists
- Novelists
- Screenwriters
- Playwrights
- Feature Film makers
- Documentary makers
- Television Production
- Professional Photographers
- Professional Videographers
- Public Relations Contractors

Freelancers in any of the above categories shall be accredited only if they qualify under either one of the following two conditions:

a) They must be on assignment for a professionally recognized organization and the request for accreditation is made by that organization. A freelancer cannot request accreditation on behalf of the organization that he is representing.

b) They have previous accomplishments that are highly visible, respected and widely recognized.

SEC. 2. ***Definitions.*** – Unless otherwise indicated, as used in this Resolution:

a) *LOCAL MEDIA* refers to those who are engaged in news reporting on a local scale, including correspondents of, and freelancers on assignment for, regional, provincial, city, or municipal publications or broadcast entities, PROVIDED that local media who operate in the National Capital Region shall be considered National Media as defined below; and

b) *NATIONAL MEDIA* refers to those who are engaged in news reporting on a nationwide scale, including provincial correspondents of, and freelancers on assignment for national publications or broadcast entities.

c) *OTHER MEDIA* refers to those engaged in other forms of journalism, including but not limited to opinion writers, public relations practitioners, creative writers, feature film and documentary film makers, and the like.

SEC. 3. ***General Requirements for accreditation.*** – All parties requesting for accreditation shall be required to submit a fully accomplished Accreditation Application Form; two (2) recently taken 2" x 2" colored photographs; and an endorsement from the newspaper, television, radio station, or internet news agency employing the applicant. In no case shall an application endorsed by an entity other than the applicant's direct employer be given due course; provided that the application of freelancers whose previous accomplishments are highly visible, respected and widely recognized, need not be endorsed.

SEC. 4. ***Specific Requirements for Accreditation of Visiting Foreign Media.*** – In addition to the requirements mentioned in the immediately preceding section, all visiting foreign media – including reporters, correspondents, stringers, cameramen, photographers and other members of the news/editorial staff of foreign wire agencies – requesting for accreditation shall be required to submit an endorsement letter from the incumbent highest ranking diplomatic representative of the applicant's home country; and photocopies of both sides of their International Press Center (IPC) Card, for the year 2007.

SEC. 5. ***Specific Requirements for Accreditation of Manila-based Foreign Media.*** – In addition to the requirements mentioned in the immediately preceding section, all Manila-based foreign media requesting for accreditation shall be required to submit an endorsement letter from their Manila Bureau Chief; and photocopies of both sides of their International Press Center (IPC) Card, for the year 2007.

SEC. 6. ***Application Forms.*** – Application forms for accreditation shall be available at the COMELEC Education and Information Department (COMELEC-EID) and in all COMELEC offices nationwide.

SEC. 7. ***Personal Filing of Applications for Accreditation.*** – Applications for accreditation may be personally filed at the COMELEC-EID, in the case of national and foreign media, and at the Office of the Provincial Election Supervisor (OPES), in case of local media. The deadline for filing application for accreditation shall be on October 25, 2007.

Applications for accreditation may also be personally filed at the Education and Information Department in the case of other media, such as novelists, screenwriters, playwrights, and those involved in the production of feature films and documentaries, both domestic and foreign.

SEC. 8. ***Approval of Applications for Accreditation.*** – Approval of applications for accreditation shall be granted by the Acting Chairman of the COMELEC, through the Director IV, Education and Information Department (EID), COMELEC, Manila, and the Provincial Election Supervisors (PES), in the case of local media.

SEC. 9. ***Treatment of Application for Accreditation.*** – Within seven (7) days from the end of the period for filing applications, the PES shall immediately furnish copies of all applications, with attachments, to the COMELEC-EID through facsimile, indicating which applications were approved and which were denied.

SEC. 10. ***Posting of Approved Applications for Accreditation.*** – The names of approved applicants for accreditation shall be posted on both the COMELEC website and the website of the COMELEC-EID.

SEC. 11. ***Media Card.*** – Upon accreditation, media representatives shall be issued a Media Card, which must be personally claimed. The COMELEC Media Card shall be strictly non-transferable and is valid only for the purpose for which it was issued. Any abuse thereof shall result in its revocation.

The Media Card shall be worn prominently whenever the media representative is covering or observing a COMELEC or electoral event.

SEC. 12. ***Access.*** – Duly accredited domestic and foreign media shall be allowed maximum access to all stages of the electoral process subject only to conditions essential for the protection of COMELEC personnel, property, and privileged information.

SEC. 13. ***Rules of Conduct.*** – All media representatives shall observe the following conduct:

a) Not more than three (3) media representatives shall be allowed inside the polling place at any one time;

b) Upon entry into the polling places, media representatives shall immediately identify themselves to the Board of Election Tellers by presenting their Media Cards;

c) Unprofessional activities shall not be tolerated. Any media representative found to be engaging in unprofessional activities shall have their Media Cards immediately revoked. Unprofessional activities include:
    1. Any behavior deemed disruptive of the conduct of voting counting and/or canvassing, such as, but not limited to, conducting interviews inside the polling place or canvassing center;
    2. Engaging in partisan political activities;
    3. Any behavior intended to unduly influence the choice of voters, such as, but not limited to, directly trying to sway the will of the voter or speaking for or against a candidate;
    4. Distributing campaign materials; and
    5. Any behavior deemed unlawful.

SEC. 14. ***Effectivity.*** – This Resolution shall take effect immediately after its publication in two (2) daily newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

SEC. 15. ***Dissemination.*** – The Executive Director shall furnish the Office of the President, Office of the Press Secretary, the Department of Foreign Affairs, Philippine Information Agency, and all mass media organizations, copies of this Resolution.

The Department of Foreign Affairs shall furnish copies to all foreign embassies and consulates.

The Education and Information Department shall cause the publication of this Resolution and furnish copies thereof to the Regional Election Directors, Provincial Election Supervisors and Election Officers.

SO ORDERED.

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Acting Chairman

FLORENTINO A. TUASON JR.
Commissioner

ROMEO A. BRAWNER
Commissioner

RENE V. SARMIENTO
Commissioner

NICODEMO T. FERRER
Commissioner

(PDI – October 18, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

GUIDELINES FOR ACCREDITATION OF FOREIGN OBSERVERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE OCTOBER 29, 2007 SYNCHRONIZED BARANGAY AND *SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN* ELECTIONS.
x-----------------x

BORRA, Resurreccion Z.	Acting Chairman
TUASON, Florentino Jr. A.	Commissioner
BRAWNER, Romeo A.	Commissioner
SARMIENTO, Rene V.	Commissioner
FERRER, Nicodemo T.	Commissioner

Promulgated: 16 October 2007

RESOLUTION NO. 8336

WHEREAS, foreigners or groups of foreigners may be coming to observe the October 29, 2007 Barangay and *Sangguniang Kabataan* Elections.

WHEREAS, there is a necessity to regulate the activities of foreign observers in the elections;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, Republic Act No. 9164 as amended by Republic Act. No. 9340, and other election laws, the Commission on Elections has **RESOLVED,** as it hereby **RESOLVES,** to promulgate the following guidelines, as follows:

SECTION 1. Accreditation. – Any foreigner or foreign group, organization, committee or association, representing government or private interests, who may want to observe the October 29, 2007 elections, shall file an application for accreditation with the Commission through the Director IV, Education and Information Department. The deadline for filing of application for accreditation for foreign observers shall be on October 25, 2007.

SEC. 2. ***Documentary requirements.*** – The application shall be supported by the following documents:

a. Duly accomplished information sheet;
b. Two (2) recently taken 2" x 2" colored photographs of the applicant; and
c. Endorsement by the ambassador or Consul of the home country of the applicants.

SEC. 3. ***Identification Cards.*** – Upon approval of the application, the Commission shall issue individual identification cards to the accredited foreign observers.

SEC. 4. ***Privileges.*** – Duly accredited observers shall have the following privileges:

A. BEFORE ELECTION DAY:

1. Request any official of the government, candidates or their representatives, representatives of media, private firms or organizations, any political party or candidate for interview or briefing on the coming electoral exercise;
2. Observe election preparation activities at the Offices of the Election Officers.

B. ON ELECTION DAY:

Observe the conduct of elections in any locality, interview voters, political leaders and other individuals outside the polling place, and document these by means of audio, visual or audio-visual recordings, subject to the prohibition under Section 5 hereof.

C. AFTER THE ELECTION:

1. Observe the counting of votes by the Board of Election Tellers and the canvassing of votes by the Barangay Board of Canvassers.

SEC. 5. ***Prohibited Acts.*** – It shall be unlawful for any foreigner, whether juridical or natural person to:

1. Aid any candidate or political party directly or indirectly;
2. Take part or influence in any manner the election;
3. Contribute or make any expenditure in connection with any election campaign or partisan political activity;
4. Enter any polling place during voting hours; and
5. Enter places reserved for voters or for the Board of Election Tellers and mingle and talk with the voters inside the polling place.

SEC. 6. ***Penalty of violation.*** – Any violation of the above provisions shall be punishable with one (1) to six (6) years of imprisonment and deportation which shall be enforced after the service of the prison term has been served.

SEC. 7. ***Effectivity.*** – This Resolution shall take effect immediately after its publication in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

SEC. 8. ***Dissemination.*** – The Education and Information Department shall implement this Resolution, cause its publication and furnish copies to all Regional Election Directors, Provincial Election Supervisors, Election Officers, all candidates, Philippine Information Agency, and the Department of Foreign Affairs, which shall cause dissemination thereof to its foreign service establishments and to representatives of foreign countries in the Philippines, for their information and guidance.

SO ORDERED.

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Acting Chairman

FLORENTINO A. TUASON JR.
Commissioner

ROMEO A. BRAWNER
Commissioner

RENE V. SARMIENTO
Commissioner

NICODEMO T. FERRER
Commissioner

WHAT'S INSIDE

Bata, 9 other RP bets keep clean US Open cards /A22

SPORTS

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WBC FIRM

Marquez must defend crown vs Pacquiao

IF THE WBC top brass has his way, Manny Pacquiao would be going after the super featherweight crown of Mexican Juan Manuel Marquez. The two fought to a controversial draw in 2004. PDI PHOTO

THE WORLD BOXING COUNCIL HAS issued another call for super featherweight champion Juan Manuel Marquez of Mexico to defend his title against Filipino star Manny Pacquiao in his next fight.

Marquez is slated to defend his title against Rocky Juarez on Nov. 3, and should he come out victorious, WBC president Jose Sulaiman wants him to stake his 130-lb title against Pacquiao.

If Juarez pulls off an upset, Sulaiman said he would also be mandated to defend against the Filipino boxing icon.

Sulaiman told Boxingscene in an interview said he believes that Marquez and Pacquiao are willing to fight each other again despite failed efforts to bring both fighters together in the ring.

"If he (Manny) declines for a third time, then I think he doesn't want to fight Marquez, and we have to go our way," noted Sulaiman.

Sulaiman said the Marquez-Pacquiao rematch should be held in the first quarter of 2008 "because there are no other television dates for the rest of the year, and they cannot do without the television, because it's a big money fight. So I believe that's going to be a great opportunity at the beginning of the year."

The WBC had also ordered Marquez to fight Pacquiao in a mandatory defense after his dethronement of Marco Antonio Barrera early in the year.

But the Marquez and Pacquiao camps couldn't agree on the purse and the Filipino ended up fighting Barrera again and winning their rematch by unanimous decision last Oct. 6.

Marquez came back from three knockdowns in the first round to forge a draw with Pacquiao in his defense of the WBA-IBF featherweight title in 2004.

Meanwhile, Sulaiman also announced that after the WBC Convention in Manila, the WBC is going to hold two separate tributes to acknowledge the brilliant careers of Erik Morales and Barrera.

For Morales, the plan is to hold the celebration in his hometown of Tijuana.

Barrera wants it either in Mexico City or Guadalajara, which is his current home.

The WBC has made it a point not to hold both affairs in one venue owing to the bad blood between the two boxing legends.

"If they don't like each other, and there is so much controversy between them, I believe that it would be cynicism if we do the ceremony for both at the same time. So definitely the events will be separate," explained Sulaiman.

Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

Makeover set for amateur boxing

By Dennis U. Eroa
Inquirer Libre

AMATEUR BOXING IS SET TO MAKE changes that could have a tremendous impact on the sport.

Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (Abap) president Manny T. Lopez, one of the four executive committee members from Asia under the International Amateur Boxing Association (Aiba), yesterday said that a congress to discuss innovations will be held a day before the start of the World Boxing Championships slated Oct. 20-Nov. 3 in Chicago, Illinois.

Among the proposed changes by some Aiba-member nations are the rules concerning the use of head guards, the number of rounds per bout and the changing of some aspects of the referee-stopped-contest rules.

"These are just examples of the proposals for rules changes. The executive committee which is Aiba's highest policy-making body is tackling a lot of issues," said Lopez, also the secretary-general of the Federation of Asian Amateur Boxing.

The other three members from Asia are Kamel Shabib of Syria, Taweep Jantararoj of Thailand and Hamid Al-Bhutin of the United Arab Emirates.

Lopez said he is still weighing the pros and cons of the proposals.

"Getting rid of the headgear will make boxing a feast to the eye. Let's admit it, fans like to see the fighters getting knocked out," Lopez

said. "But the other consideration is assuring the safety of the boxers. Aiba is very strict regarding the safety of the competitors."

Lopez said safety is also a consideration in the suggestion to bring back the bout to three-minute three-rounders from the present two-minute four rounders.

The four-rounders started during the 2001 Busan Asian Games in South Korea.

Lopez said there is also a proposal to modify the RSC-outscored rules.

Presently, a bout in the senior division is stopped when a boxer leads his opponent by 20 or more points.

Lopez said a total of 168 representatives from Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania and Americas will attend the congress at the University of Illinois-Chicago Pavilion on Oct. 20.

Long criticized for its biased scoring and the alleged control of syndicates in the past, Lopez said the Aiba under the leadership of Taiwanese Wu Ching-kuo has been instituting changes in order to make the sports dynamic, fair and just.

Wu, whose term will last till 2010, unseated the controversial Anwar Chowdry of Pakistan last year and has been in the forefront of "cleansing" the sport.

Meanwhile, seven boxers will banner the RP-Smart Boxing team campaign in the biennial event serving as the first qualifying for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Carrying the banner for the Philippines are light flyweight Harry Tañamor, flyweight Violito Payla, bantamweight Joan Tipon, featherweight Charly Suarez, lightweight Genebert Basadre, light welterweight Delfin Boholst and welterweight Willie Lopez.

Coaching the team are Pat Gaspi and Ronald Chavez. Team officials are Abap secretary-general Rogelio Fortaleza and international referee/judge Arturo Vidal.

PENREX
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Bata, 9 other RP bets keep clean US Open cards

FILIPINO BETS CONTINUED THEIR dominance in the 32nd US Open 9-Ball Championship at the Chesapeake Conference Center in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Efren "Bata" Reyes survived a scare and pulled off a cliffhanger. Francisco "Django" Bustamante powered his way through. Alex "The Lion" Pagulayan was, well, perfect.

With the country's top campaigners picking up their second straight win, the rest of the gang followed suit and booked a seat in the third round of the winner's bracket.

Reyes, the 1994 US Open champion, edged upstart Marc Vidal, 11-10; Bustamante downed Richie Orem, 11-5; while Pagulayan, the 2005 US Open titlist, blanked Frank Alvarez, 11-0.

Double world champion Ronato Alcano, Jose "Amang" Parica, Dennis Orcollo, Lee Vann Corteza, Rodolfo Luat, Warren Kiamco and Edwin Montal also marched into the next round with a couple of wins on the bag.

Parica toppled Abdullah El Yousef, 11-5; Alcano routed Paddy McLaughlin, 11-3; Orcollo trounced Michael Dechaine, 11-5; Corteza downed Jason Klatt, 11-9; Luat beat Ivaylo Petrov, 11-8; Kiamco thrashed Daniel Madden, 11-4 and Montal blasted Charlie Williams, 11-2.

Ramil Gallego, who dropped his opening round match to Markus Juva of Finland, is playing against Huidje See of the Netherlands at presstime.

The annual tournament, which gathered 211 of the best players in the world, offers $50,000 to the champion and $25,000 to the runner-up.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

ALEX Pagulayan: Impressive second round shutout.

So places 20th in Jr world tilt

FILIPINO INTERNATIONAL MASTER WESley So trounced IM Giorgi Margvelashivili of Georgia in the final round late Tuesday to wind up 20th in the 2007 World Juniors and Girls Chess Championships at the T. Petrosian Chess House in Yerevan, Armenia.

The 14-year-old campaigner from Bacoor, Cavite, scored 7.5 points after 13 rounds, good for a share of 17th to 25th places. After the tie break points was applied, So finished 20th among 80 players in the Boy's 20 and under.

Despite his faltering windup, 2.5 points in the last seven rounds, So managed to earn his second GM result after beating IM Sasha Kaplan of Armenia in the ninth round.

In the distaff side, Filipino Woman National Master Aices Salvador nipped WFM Shohreh Bayat of Iran to tally 6.5 points and settle for a share of 27th to 34th places in the 58-player Girl's 20 and under class. The 17-year-old La Salle Management student finished 30th after the tie break.

GM Ahmed Adly of Egypt and WIM Vera Nelbolsina of Russia finished with similar 10 points each to emerge this year's Boys' and Girls' World Junior Chess champions.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

Pasig boy cops 12 swim golds; QC bets lead

By June Navarro

A YOUNG SWIMMER FROM PASIG emerged as a virtual gold medal machine with 12 victories even as Quezon City and Manila dominated their favorite events at the start of the National Capital Region qualifying leg of the 2nd Philippine Olympic Festival yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Gabriel Castelo even enhanced his reputation as swimming's golden boy by posting triple A performances in 11 events—the 50-meter, 100m, 200m and 400m freestyle, 100m and 200m backstroke, 200m and 400m individual medley, 100m and 200m butterfly and 100m backstroke.

"Very impressive," said swimming chief Mark Joseph.

A triple-A rating is the standard being used worldwide to determine the potential of a swimmer from the grassroots level.

Castelo's winning spree boosted Pasig's golden haul to 19, still way off the 29 victories Quezon City achieved in swimming which started a few days earlier at the Rizal pool.

Sisters Louise and Kezia Sarmiento combined to give Quezon City seven swimming golds in all.

Vying in the 15-years-and-above division, Louise won in the 100m, 800m, 400m and 50m freestyle while Kezia struck in the 100m free and 100m and 200m backstroke in the 11-12 category.

Manila made its presence felt in track and field, snaring five of the eight gold medals staked in the morning events of the five-day meet.

Jerome Oclaret, who dominated the shot put event in the 2007 Palarong Pambansa in Koronadal City while representing Northern Mindanao, captured the same event for Manila with a heave of 12.98 meters.

Also coming up with golden efforts for Manila were Ruffa Bargola (100m), Rodney Ramos (200m), Kenneth Grace Ferrera (hammer throw) and Gilbert Ulboc (5,000m) in the five-day event backed by Globe, Accel, Negros Navigation, Asia Brewery, AMA and Creativity Lounge.

Canossa-Lipa spikers snare Petron crown

CANOSSA ACADEMY-LIPA BEAT ANGELES University Foundation, 25-16, 25-15, 22-25, 25-15, in the finals to emerge overall champion in the Petron Treats Boys Volleyball League at the Colegio de San Lorenzo Sports Complex in Congressional Avenue, Quezon City, over the weekend.

Canossa-Lipa earlier stopped University of the East, 27-25, 25-17, 24-26, 20-25, 17-15, last Saturday to arrange a titular showdown with AUF, which posted a 27-25, 25-20, 19-25, 20-25, 11-15, victory over Ateneo de Manila University.

Duane Craig Teves of Canossa-Lipa won the Most Valuable Player as well as the best server award while teammate John Lantin emerged the best blocker. Canossa mentor Manny Clossa was declared best coach.

Other individual winners were Michael Reyes of University of the East (best attacker), Bartolome Rivera III of Ateneo de Manila University (best setter), Jerome Eugenio of the University of the East (best libero), and Neil Pamintuan of Angeles University of Foundation (best receiver).

In the battle for third place, University of the East bested Ateneo de Manila University, 22-25, 25-21, 25-16, 25-15.

Among those who watched the finals were Andrew Tan of Petron Treats, Lawrence Navarro (Toby's Sports), Meggie Jose (Shakey's), Eden Ramirez (UP Batangan Dance troop), Prime Sison (Colegio de San Lorenzo Sports Complex) and Freddie Infante (Metro Sports).

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

SPORTSWATCH

LGBA series resumes today at Araneta

THE CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND OF THE LUZON GAMECOCK BREEDERS ASsociation (LGBA) 7-stag derby continues at 2 p.m. today at the Araneta Coliseum. The two-part championship round began last Tuesday, with Boy Tanyag of Laguna emerging champion with seven points. Jun Sevilla of Batangas notched six points. Other top qualifiers are Joener Letada, Boy Tuazon, Joey Abaquita, Raffy Campos, Edwin Aranez, Jomar Hizon, Cito Alberto, Marcel Julao, Baby Canillas, Manuel Lui, Conrad Estrella and James Ulilang.

2007 CCF
BASKETBALL LEAGUE
METRO BASKETBALL

OPENING: MBT Commissioner Nilo C. Fernandez (center) with CCF Ministry head Theo Tan during the opening of the Christ Commission Fellowship Basketball League last Sunday at the RTU Gym in Mandaluyong. With them are (from left) Adrian Hao, Mikki Eduardo, Sherwyn Sy, Martin Syjuco, Walther Ang Tong and Zeus Martinez.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—Prying Eyes (1), Flush Away (3), Centaur Khan (4)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Golden Fantasy (6), Danehill Dave (4), Run Like D'Wind (1), Crystal City (3)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Sexy Eyes (7), Mr. Victory (5), Virginia (4), Rain Dancer (8)
Race 4—(Sunday Street (1), Rogue Knight (5), Red Gown (3), Piker's Magic (6)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Pele (8), Pacman (9), Pay To See (2), Lucky Joe (4), Luck of the Irish (7)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Bird in Hand (5), El Cid (6), I Don't Dance (4), Magic Dancer (1)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Royal Fleet (5), Royal Lady Jane (9), Bull Rider (2), Eig Spender (4), Toowed MBA
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—En Gedi (12), Hammer It Home (4), Maslado (5), Speed Bullet (2), Game Over/Words of Joy (11), Red Hot Water (10)

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SEAG victory for women's beach volleyball team seen

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE COUNTRY HAS A STRONG CHANCE at the women's beach volleyball gold if the Southeast Asian Games were to be held today.

Tony Boy Liao, manager of the Fil-Am tandem of Heidi Ilustre and Diane Pascua, made this bold claim yesterday, noting that the bronze medalists of the 2005 SEAG are now in "top shape."

"If the SEA Games is held today, there's a strong chance we can win the (beach volley) gold medal," said Liao. "And I'm not discounting the fact that the SEA Games will be held in Thailand."

Liao added that Ilustre and Pascua have climbed to 41st in the world rankings after joining the World Tour starting early this year.

Currently training in Los Angeles, the two are scheduled to come home on Oct. 28 on their way to the Phuket leg of the World Tour on the 29th and the Hong Kong stop on Nov. 5. They still have one more leg before the Dec. 6-16 SEAG.

Thailand captured the gold and silver medals during the 2005 edition held in Bacolod City.

The homegrown pair of Michelle Carolino and Michelle Laborte, who are set to compete in Malaysia for a tune-up event, will be the other SEAG women's team. Mowrey Chad and Parley Tupaz and Christian Tuyay and Rhovyl Verayo are the men's beach volley bets.

Pharex Medics want to win hearts of fans

BAGGING A CHAMPIONSHIP ON ITS rookie season in the Philippine Basketball League may be a daunting task as far as the Pharex Medics are concerned.

But as the top executive of the team puts it, "it's not a matter of winning or losing, but it's a case of winning the hearts of those people watching."

Dr. Abraham Pascual, chair of Pascual Laboratories Inc., provided the words of wisdom during the public presentation of the Medics team three days before it makes its debut in the PBL.

Meanwhile, chair Cecilio Pedro of Hapee Toothpaste and vice chair Mikee Romero of Harbour Centre will be in attendance along with other league officials when the 2008 PBL V-Go Energy Drink Cup is launched at the Gerry's Grill this afternoon.

Pharex coach Gian Carlo Lai Tan has assembled a cast made up of collegiate stalwarts led by University of the East big man Elmer Espiritu and Mapua hotshot Sean Co, whom he expects to run and push the ball a lot to make up for the team's apparent lack of size.

"Let the other teams adjust to our speed in the same manner that we have to adjust to their size," said Tan in yesterday's press launch at the Pascual Laboratories Inc. office.

Tan was joined in the rite by PBL Board representative Ding Camua, team manager Jean Michael Alabanza, coaching staff Jorge Bienvenido Sison, Michael Buendia and Richard Umayan and players Gilbert Bulawan, Francis Allera, Jayr Gerilla, Jefferson de Guzman, Marvin Yambao, Eddie Soriano, veteran Emmerson Oreta, Michael Burtscher, Jam Alfad, Ron Matias, Jimbo Aquino, Co and Espiritu.

The Medics routed three-time champion Harbour Centre Batang Pier in their pre-season game at The Arena in San Juan, but Tan refused to be carried away by the easy win.

"That's not the real Harbour team that we played," said Tan. "We all know some of their top players are with the RP men's team."

Ace cagers earn spurs under RP Youth

THEY MAY BE FIERCE RIVALS when they play for their respective schools, but many collegiate basketball stars have a common denominator. They were part of the Burlington-Philippine Youth teams of 2002 and 2004.

These rising stars are Ford Arao, Mike Baldos, Chris Tiu, Jobe Nkemakolam and Yuri Escueta of Ateneo, Jervy Cruz, Dylan Ababou, June Dizon and Mark Canlas of UST, James Martinez of UE, Jay-R Taganas and Ogie Menor of San Beda and Bryan Faundo of Letran.

Arao, Baldos, Tiu, Escueta, Faundo, Dizon together with Jay Agbayani of UP, Jonathan Fernandez of NU and Mark Benitez, formerly of La Salle, were part of the 18 and under national team that failed to bring home the bacon in the 2002 South East Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) Jr tournament in Kuala Lumpur.

Tiu, Nkemakolam, Faundo and Dizon were unable to make the trip to the Malaysian capital due to various reasons.

Their 2004 counterparts, led by Menor, Taganas, Martinez, Ababou and Jason Castro, now playing for Harbour Centre team and a PBL MVP awardee, regained the title in the Lucena, Quezon, edition.

Cruz and Canlas, who quit the team just before the Lucena tourney, rejoined the squad when they represented the region in the Asian 18 and under championships held in Bangalore, India.

Both Junior teams were supported by Burlington through Pete and Ruddy Tan.

The Tans conscripted coach Johny Tam for early reconnaissance and commissioned TEAM Inc, a sports management firm headed by Teddy S. Pereña, to assist in forming a fighting team for the 2004 regional cage wars.

The efforts bore fruit as Tam's wards redeemed themselves from the Malaysia debacle.

JONATHAN Fernandez

Why Abe King is in town

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

ABE KING'S eyes were red and watery. He was on the verge of tears as he answered a question I had innocently asked.

Abe said he left the country in 1998 after his retirement from the PBA, to try his luck in the United States. The former PBA cager holds a card authenticating that he belongs to the Cherokee Indian tribe.

"After 9 years, *ngayon lang ako nakabalik. Ngayon lang ako makakabayad ng utang*," his voice broke as he fought back the tears welling in his eyes.

* * *

Abe said his life was not only a mess when he left the country in 1998. He was also flat broke.

"*Mabuti na lang may mga kaibigan na tumulong sa akin.* If not for them, *hindi maipagpapatuloy ng mga anak ko ang pag-aaral nila.*"

Abe said he had two reasons for coming to Manila this October and one of them is to pay his debt to former Great Taste teammate Allan Caidic and ex-Toyota coach Dante Silverio, two of the three people who helped him in his time of dire need.

The third is Bokyo Lauchengco, another former teammate who is now based in the United States like him.

Dante refused to accept the P100,000 Abe paid him and instead donated the money to the PBA Legends USA Foundation, an association of former PBA cagers Abe and some of his player-friends formed to help needy retired cagers and less fortunate Filipinos here in the Philippines.

If Abe owed him money, Allan said he also owed a big part of his successful career to Abe. Allan did not elaborate.

Two of Abe's children are currently enrolled at the University of Washington in Seattle taking up medicine.

* * *

Abe said the second reason he came to Manila is to personally invite PBA legends like Caidic, Samboy Lim, Alvin Patrimonio, Dindo Pumaren, Manny Victorino, Vergel Meneses, Gerry Esplana, Ronnie Magsanoc and Jojo Lastimosa to play a series of exhibition games in the United States to raise funds for the foundation, where he is the chair.

Among others, the money raised will go to a medical mission that will bring US-based doctors to Manila for free services in the countryside, and also to the lawyers of Rudy Distrito who is projected to be released from prison as early as next year.

Through the help of the foundation and his sponsor from Manila, Mr. Ronnie Nathanielsz, Rudy was able to enroll in an anger management course and a computer literacy program while serving time.

Abe is here in Manila with former Ginebra assistant coach Rino Salazar who is now based in Alaska.

* * *

HOOPVINE: Even the midgets of La Salle in Greenhills are making waves like their senior counterparts. Coach Mesi Mesia's boys clobbered San Beda to run off with the Paya title while the Mike Fermin-mentored midgets humbled Xavier to win the Prada championship. Both feats were accomplished in one weekend… Speaking of La Salle, is it true that the Archers are treating (or have treated) the NU Bulldogs to a banquet for beating Ateneo and helping pave their way to the UAAP championship? According to SBP director Patrick Gregorio, who's in Phuket with the ladies cage team… RP has to win versus Singapore Wednesday and Malaysia today for the No. 1 seeding. "That means we will be up against Indonesia in the semis on Friday. Championship is on Saturday," Pato said in a text message.

Thai grabs lead over Zarate

By Musong R. Castillo

LIPA CITY—ABOUT THE ONLY THING hard to read on the leader's scorecard yesterday was his surname.

Otherwise, Thai Nakul Vichittryuthasastr signed for nothing but pars and birdies on a brutal day at the Malarayat here yesterday, his four-under-par 68 giving him a one-shot lead over Danny Zarate after 18 holes of the Asean Tour's Philippine leg.

The 25-year-old Nakul had two birdies on the front nine before picking up shots in his last two holes that boosted him on top despite a sensational eagle by Zarate on the 17th.

Zarate, the veteran journeymen, had three birdies, two bogeys and that eagle for a 34-35 card, one shot ahead of unheralded Orlan Sumcad, who fired a 70 like Ruben Sasutil and Ronnachai Jamnong of Thailand.

Twenty-two of the 56 Filipinos seeing action out of the total of 80 who answered the starting gun occupied the Top 29 with another Thai, Namchok Tantipokhakul Norachet Juntapun and M. Sasidaran, Lim Eng Seng and Anis Helmi Hassan of Malaysia, who fired 73s, the other foreigners.

Only 10 players broke par on the relatively short Mount Lobo and Mount Malipunyo nines as winds bedeviled the field and the greens proving to be tough puzzles to solve.

Asian Tour leg winner Angelo Que was one of those who struggled big time on the putting surfaces, needing 35 putts to churn out a 72 and stay in a six-man group that included Antonio Lascuña and 1990 RP Open winner Robert Pactolerin.

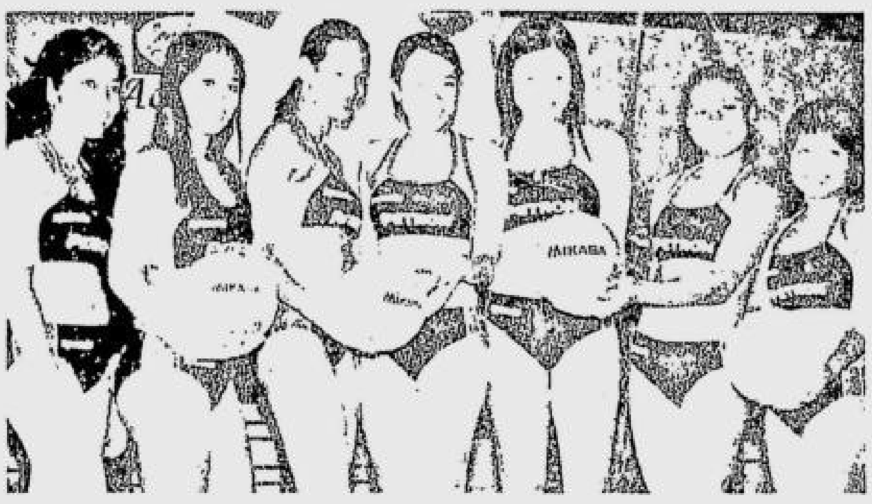
Juvic Pagunsan submitted a 76 and Artemio Murakami a 70 that gave him a share of sixth place.

SCORES: 68—Nakul Vichittryuthasastr (Tha) 34-34; 69—D. Zarate 34-35; 70—O. Sumcad 35-35, R. Sasutil 35-35, J. Ronnachai (Tha) 34-36; 71—F. Aunzo (A) 38-33, R. Sinfuego 38-33, M. Pucay 36-35, A. Murakami 36-35, J. Delariarte 34-35; 72—L. Dacudao 37-35, A. Lascuna 36-36, A. Que 36-36, R. Pactolerin 35-37, R. Sangil (A) 34-38, C. La'O (34-38); 73—E. Salvador 38-35, N. Tantipokhakul (Tha) 38-35, M. Sasidaran (Mal), 38-35, C. Casas 38-35, E. Estrera 37-36, L. Seng (Mal) 37-36, A. Hassan (Mal) 37-36, A. Fernando (A) 37-36, J. Bayron (A) 37-36, J. Laput 37-36, M. Alejandro (A) 35-38, J. Rates 35-38, N. Juntapun (Tha) 35-38.

ZARATE: Down by a stroke.

PDI PHOTO

Beach champs get ready for battle



ALL SET for battle are volleybelles Pretty volleybelles (from left) Apple Jayne Sebastian, Mary Ann Calleja, Sheena Rose Teves, Jessica Ticala, Ma. Lourdes Patillano, Anja Chavez and Chriselda Ruiz.

FIRST-LEG CHAMPIONS SHEENA Rose Teves and Lourdes Patillano know what the enemy looks like. But if they're not careful, someone else might just steal the crown they are eager to clinch.

Teves and Patillano are looking at the pair of Sheryl Laborte and Jenny Torres as the team to beat when the 2007 Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball Battle of Champions gets under way tomorrow at the Subic Bay Freeport in Olongapo City.

Their fear is justifiable. Laborte and Torres have won three previous legs of this tournament.

"We're worried because we're up against former champions who may have the edge in experience against us," said the 21-year-old Teves in Filipino.

The lanky Hotel and Restaurant Management student from the Asian College of Science and Technology, who will be teaming up with Patillano, said they expect Kat Villaluz and Arlene Bernardo to come up with a strong showing as well.

Teves and Patillano won the first leg after they beat Olivarez College bets Roseanne Barroga and Rowena Felices, 21-19, 21-17.

Villaluz and Bernardo ruled the second leg, when they prevailed over Ateneo's Charo Soriano and Patricia Taganas, 21-16,21-15.

Laborte and Torres bagged the third-leg title when they repulsed promising collegiate rivals Mary Jane Porcia and Mary Anne Calleja.

RP bowlers mentally weak, says legend Coo

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BOWLING HALL OF FAMER BONG COO thinks the dwindling international wins by Filipinos is due to lack of mental toughness.

"We see that our players lack mental toughness—the abilities are there but not the staying power," said Coo. "We tend to take the lead in competitions but fade later on. That's why our gold medals are getting fewer."

To revive the killer instinct of the bowlers, Coo, the Philippine Bowling Congress secretary general, announced that a mental coach has been hired for the coming Southeast Asian Games campaign in December.

The four-time world champion and five-time Asian Games gold winner said the PBC has tapped the services of sports psychologist Marissa Adviento of Ateneo to psyche up the 12-man team that will defend the overall title in Thailand.

"In practice we are good, but somehow, especially in team competition where every game counts, we need more improvement," she said. "We must know how to perform under pressure. Hopefully in two months time we can achieve that."

Coo said the Filipino keglers hope to duplicate if not surpass the four gold medals won two years ago in the Philippines.

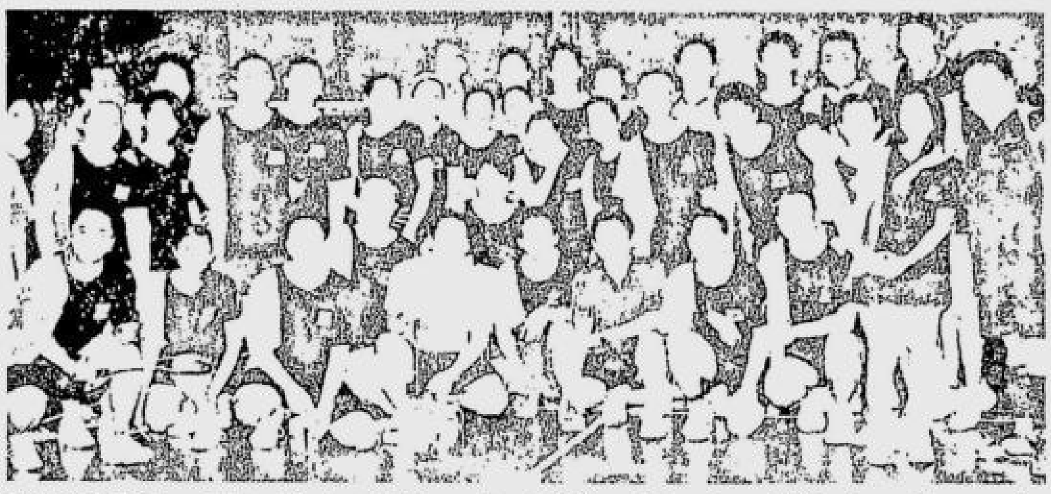
Executive chess fifth leg kicks off

THE BIGGEST GATHERING OF chess-playing executives will take place on Oct. 20 at the Boracay Clubhouse along 13th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City for the fifth leg of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) Executives and Professionals Chess Challenge.

This was announced by NCFP executive director lawyer Sammy Estimo as executives have confirmed their participation in the event supported by GM Eugene Torre, NCFP chair Rep. Matias Defensor, vice president Ed Madrid and Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas, who is an NCFP director.

The champion will take home a certificate for a two-night stay for two persons at a Boracay beach resort while the second to fifth placers will receive appliances and berths to the grand finals slated early next year.

Participants may call GM Eugene Torre at 0922-8822870, Dr. Jenny Mayor at 0919-4782209) or Sammy Estimo at 0915-9360354. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*



GAS IT UP: Consolidated Industrial Gases, Inc. (CIGI) and Goodyear Philippines officers and employees cool down with a photo session after taking part in a badminton match at Cool Shots gym in San Juan. The teams represent members of the country's top gases, tire manufacturing and healthcare industries. CIGI is the country's leading industrial gases supplier and a part of The Linde Group, the world's leading industrial gases and engineering company.

'Love' race to benefit Gawad Kalinga slated

THE ADIDAS RUN FOR LOVE race kicks off Oct. 27 at the SM Mall of Asia grounds in Pasay City with the aim of raising funds for the internationally acclaimed Gawad Kalinga projects.

Adidas sports marketing manager Goody Custodio said the event is expected to lure 10,000 runners.

Custodio added that Adidas shares Gawad Kalinga's vision of building a slum-free, squatter-free nation by providing land for the landless, homes for the homeless, food for the hungry and as a result providing dignity and peace for every Filipino.

"This is going to be a yearly undertaking and we hope, in our own little way, we can help build houses to the homeless," said Custodio, who was also responsible for turning the Adidas King of the Road from a one-race-a-year event into a multi-leg nationwide event.

Registration is now open for the 5K and 10K races at the ground floor of the Vasquez Madrigal Bldg., 51 Annapolis in Greenhills, San Juan. Registration fee is P250, inclusive of one Adidas running singlet. Registration ends on Oct. 24.

The race starts at exactly 6 a.m. and assembly time is no later than 5 a.m.

FOR THE sake of love, thousands of runners, like the field that joined the King of The Road marathon, are expected to join the Adidas Run for Love race.

Golf show opens 3-day shop tomorrow

THE GOLF DISTRIBUTORS ASSOCIATION of the Philippines raises the curtains for its Philippine International Golf Show tomorrow with thousands of golf aficionados expected to troop to the Megatrade Hall 2 of the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong for the three-day exhibit.

Local distributors of the major brands have once more banded together to guarantee that the 12th edition of the show will feature price discounts that visitors look forward to every year.

Sportsman Tommy Manotoc will be the guest of honor during the opening ceremonies. He will also be awarded the Golf Personality of the Year for his many contributions to the promotion of the sport.

The opening rites starting at 10 a.m. will also be marked by a ceremonial putt to be participated in by GDAP officials led by president Gerald Raymundo and exhibit chair Ana Herrera as organizers of Asia's longest running Golf Show decided to deviate from the usual cutting of ribbon.

Aside from making a name in the amateur ranks, the general manager of the Calatagan Golf Club is maintaining a stable of crack ex-caddies, two of whom (Jhonel Ababa and Mark Fernando) just made a tour of duty with the national team. Ababa and Fernando are products of the National Caddies Open staged by the Philippine Amateur Golf Development Foundation Manotoc established.

The launch of pilipinasgolf.com, the joint website of INQUIRER GOLF and Golf Digest, will be held Saturday, the same day an industry cocktails will be hosted by GDAP.

This year's show is backed by American Eye Center as silver sponsor and Revicon Max, Metrobank Platinum and Megatrade Hall as bronze sponsors.

ROSTER OF EXHIBITORS: Acro Industrial Development & Construction Corporation, Aetna Enterprises, Atendido Marketing, Besa's Shoes, Inc., Dunlop Slazenger, Electrobus Consolidated, Inc., Gainer's Marketing Corporation, Golf King, Golfpro International Ltd., Kart Plaza, Pacsports Philippines, Inc., Raymundo's Trophies, Transview Golf Philippines, Inc. and WS Sports, Inc., Business Handlers Marketing, Capital Gainers Enterprises, Dynamic Sports Corp., Fitness First, G&W Clubshares, Inc., GG&A Club Shares Brokers, Inc., GT Turfworks, GBSEA (Global Brands, Phils.), Malaysian Tourism Board, Nam's Golf, New Smart Formulae Trading Corp., Pacific Sports Network (Taylormade), Pagcor, PGA Tours, Philippine Tourism Authority, Nivea, Rudy Project and Thunderbird Resorts.

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E. Singson	Quezon City	R2UI-FOHX8C
G. Concon Jr	Manila	6QUCR4KA2P
P50,000.00 Winners		
R. Quinitio	Ilocos Sur	8EF958JVWH
F. Tajanas Jr.	Quezon City	5ZRAIGB3ZZ
S. Bacagan	Pangasinan	UXM32M4SP0
A. Galicia	Gapan City	UJZNCTBX8Z

Ang mga nanalo sa VisMin (Oct. 15)

Name	City	Reference #
P100,000.00 Winners		
N. Evasco	Davao City	MZ1AG398Y2
P50,000.00 Winners		
J. Bruno	Cotabato City	ZGJ5760G91
D. Ortizo	Panago City	4NQTRWNCI7

Kaya sali na, simple lang!

1. Text LOTTO <ticket # found in your lotto ticket> to 7276

LOTTO 56C2-9C88-8204-5539

All tickets bought from Monday to Sunday should be sent in by Sunday 11:59pm to qualify

2. You will receive the reply below. Save message and present if you win.

07:07:07< 13:37:00. Natanggap ng Lotto 2nd Chance Panalo ang entry mo <56C2-9C88-8204-5539>. Meron kang 1 entry <reference#>.

Dito mahahanap ang lotto ticket number.

56C2-9C88-8204-5539
23149 93553 62365
369000000015104-2

FOR LUZON TICKETS
text in ang 16-digits alphanumeric lotto ticket number
Ex: LOTTO 56C29C8882045539

FOR VIS/MIN TICKETS V1
text in ang last 15-digits ng 35-digit numeric lotto ticket number
Ex: LOTTO 231499355362365

FOR VIS/MINTICKET V2
text in ang 15-digits numeric lotto ticket number
Ex: LOTTO 369000000151042

* Superlotto 6/49, Megalotto 6/45, Lotto 6/42, 6-Digit, 4-Digit, Suertres and EZ2 tickets

Prizes	# of Luzon winners	# of Vis/Min winners
P100,000	2	1
P50,000	4	2
P60	60	40

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MECHANICS:

1. Service is available to all Smart and Talk N'Text Subscribers, 18 years old and above
2. For Luzon Subscribers:
   A. Text LOTTO, followed by the 16-digit lotto ticket number and send to 7276 Ex. LOTTO A6C0-1600-9038-2513
   B. Confirmation message with reference number will be sent to your phone MM:DD:YY< hh:mm:ss. Natanggap ng Lotto 2nd Chance Panalo ang entry mo <16-digit ticket#>. Meron kang 1 entry <reference#>. Ang draw date nito ay sa <mm/dd/yy>. Ipakita ang orihinal na ticket sa pag claim ng prize. 18 years old pataas lang ang pwedeng sumali
   C. Save the confirmation message, reference number, and lotto ticket
   D. Winner's names will be published in leading newspapers.
3. For Visayas and Mindanao Subscribers:
   A. Text LOTTO, followed by the 15-digit lotto ticket number and send to 7276 15-digit lotto ticket is the last 15 numbers in the 35 digit ticket number. Ex. LOTTO 36890000017408-5
   B. Confirmation message with reference number will be sent to your phone MM:DD:YY< hh:mm:ss. Natanggap ng Lotto 2nd Chance Panalo ang entry mo <15-digit ticket#>. Meron kang 1 entry <reference#>. Ang draw date nito ay sa <mm/dd/yy>. Ipakita ang orihinal na ticket sa pag claim ng prize. 18 years old pataas lang ang pwedeng sumali
   C. Save the confirmation message, reference number, and lotto ticket
   D. Winner's names will be published in leading newspapers.
4. Weekly validity period is from 12:00am Monday to 11:59pm Sunday. All tickets bought from Monday to Sunday should be sent in by Sunday 11:59pm to qualify. P2.50 per entry.
5. Prizes above P10,000 subject to government tax.

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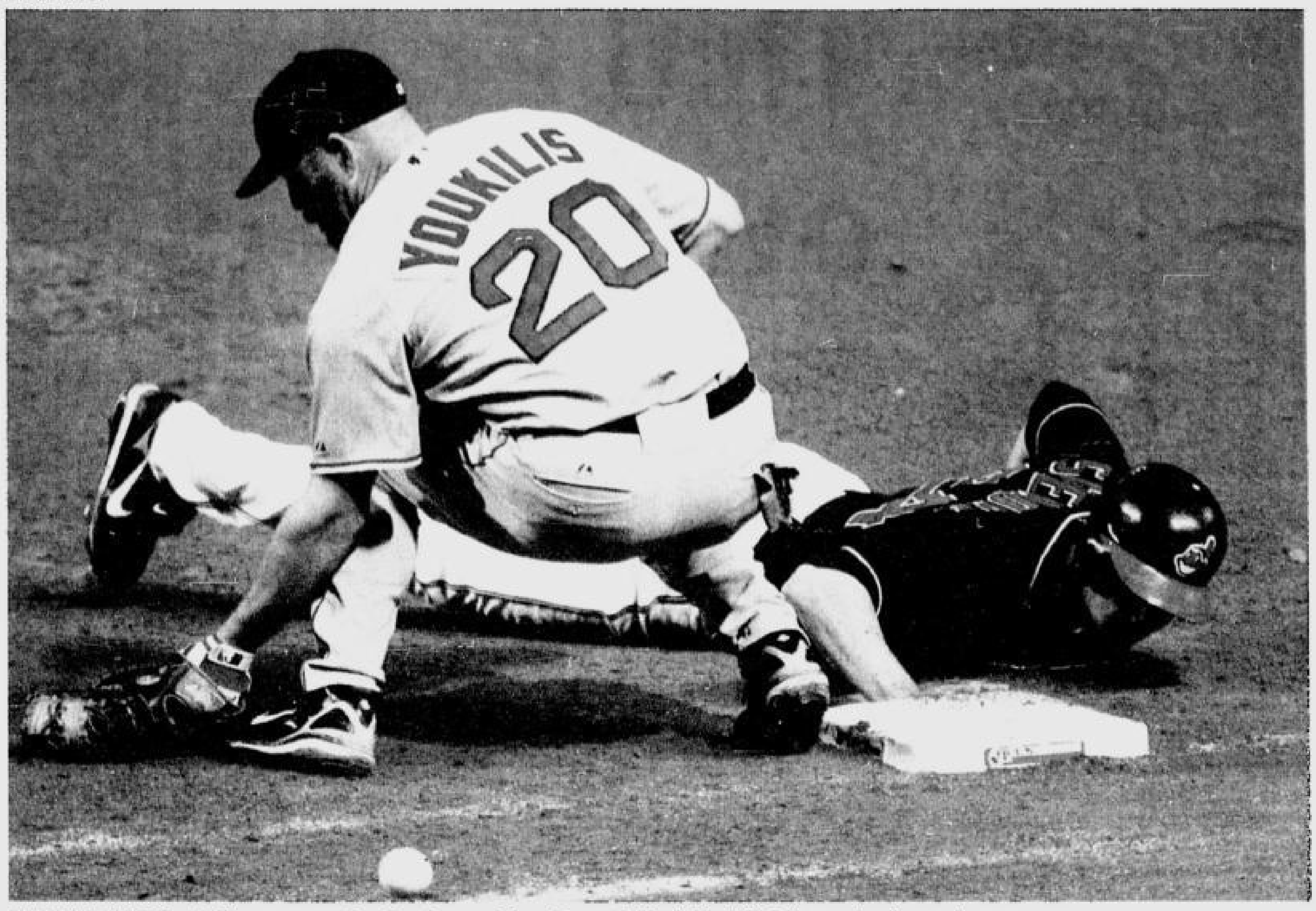

CLEVELAND'S Grady Sizemore reaches first base safely as Boston's Kevin Youkilis fail to make the catch. AP

One to go for Indians

Cleveland takes 3-1 series lead over Boston

CLEVELAND—PAUL BYRD PITCHED FIVE scoreless innings and the Cleveland Indians used a seven-run rampage in the fifth to beat the Boston Red Sox, 7-3, Tuesday night, moving within a game of the World Series.

The Indians, who eliminated the New York Yankees in the first round of the Major League Baseball playoffs, took a three-games-to-one lead in the best-of-seven American League Championship Series. Even three straight homers couldn't rally Boston.

A victory in Game 5 on Thursday night would send Cleveland back to the World Series for the first time since 1997, when the Indians lost a seven-game series to the Florida Marlins.

After a day off, the Indians will turn to ace CC Sabathia, their left-handed leader. Boston's Josh Beckett, who beat Cleveland in Game 1 at home, will try to send the series back to Fenway Park.

Casey Blake homered leading off the fifth inning against Tim Wakefield, whose knuckleball had Cleveland's hitters missing for nearly four innings.

But in the fifth, helped by a dropped foul pop and a ball seemingly destined for an inning-ending double play that tipped off Wakefield's glove, the Indians scored seven runs—just as they did in the 11th inning at Fenway Park to win Game 2.

Cleveland batted for 35 minutes in the fifth, which seemed to slow Byrd's control. He gave up consecutive homers in a seven-pitch span to Kevin Youkilis and David Ortiz to open the sixth before Indians manager Eric Wedge rescued him.

Rookie Jensen Lewis replaced Byrd, who was saluted by Cleveland's towel-twirling fans as he walked to the dugout.

Lewis gave up a homer to Manny Ramirez, who posed to admire his 451-foot shot, as the Red Sox became the first team in the American League championship series history to hit three straight homers.

They came too late as the Red Sox missed a chance to even the series and now must hope they can repeat their 2004 rally when they came back from an 0-3 deficit, beat the Yankees four straight and swept the St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series. *AP*

After nightmare, Eala bounces back with new 'Liga'

By Francis T.J. Ochoa

FOR MORE THAN A DECADE, HE HAD been part of what he was currently watching on television one particular Sunday afternoon inside his den.

Understandably, the tuning-in did not come easy.

"Well, frankly, it was difficult to watch the [PBA] opening at home," said former PBA commissioner Noli Eala, in a chat with the INQUIRER Tuesday. "For the last 13 years, I've been part of the opening ceremonies as either a broadcaster or a commissioner."

Getting up, in fact, from the nightmare that saw him lose the commissionership of the PBA after steering the league to newfound heights, was a lot easier.

"I had very good support from family and good friends," said the 39-year-old ex-lawyer, in his first public interview since quitting the PBA after getting controversially disbarred by the Supreme Court on the grounds of immorality.

"Some people stood by me when the whole world seemed to have abandoned me, and that made it a lot easier," he added. "I learned a lot of lessons in life."

New lessons, old lessons. He hopes to parlay both into a second successful foray into basketball.

"My heart will always be in basketball," he explained.

But for a while, it wasn't quite so. Dressed in a light blue long-sleeved shirt and black pants for a press conference for the Liga Pilipinas, a regional basketball meet he hopes to guide through an expectedly turbulent infancy stage starting next year, Eala said he walled himself inside a shell, unreachable by anything basketball.

"I thought I should not be involved in basketball or any sport for that matter," he said. Midway through August—at about the time the PBA was scheduled to hold its rookie draft, it's first official event post-Eala—he left for Cebu to spend time with his family and tinker with the family business.

Basketball, though, refused to leave him alone.

Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas executive director Patrick Gregorio had this idea of putting up a solid regional basketball program that did not have to start from scratch. Aware that there were two existing leagues—the Mindanao Visayas Basketball Association and the National Basketball Conference—that preached regional basketball, Gregorio knew he had a backbone.

NOLI Eala (third from left) is ready to take another chance with basketball, joining hands with several personalities to promote a regional nationwide tournament that will kick off next year. Among the initiators of a nationwide grassroots program are (from left) fellow organizer Andrew Te, Tagaytay Mayor Bambol Tolentino, revered Cebuano coach Yayoy Alcoseba, Olympian Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla, NBC's Tito Palma and former pro Willie Generalao of the MVBA.

All he needed was someone to use that backbone and turn it into a truly national program, something like putting up a national broadband network without ZTE-like problems. He asked officials of the league, who happened to be in Cebu, to talk to a former basketball personality who happened to be there healing his wounds.

"It was not easy to say yes," Eala said softly, almost inaudibly. "It took a couple of months before I agreed."

"At the back of my mind, there was the fear that people would perceive this move as my way of sour-graping," he explained. "But then, I told myself, *ang importante, malinis ang kunsensiya* and *ang* intentions, pure."

So he said yes. Although his role in the league has yet to be defined—NBC's Tac Padilla, a legendary shooter and an Olympian, however referred to Eala as the league's guiding force—Eala said he wants to help in any way to get things going.

"I've mapped out a four-year growth chart," he said. "I'm hoping by the second or third year, we will be on the go and by the fourth year, the trend will be irreversible."

It is a familiar refrain. Eala's legacy in the PBA will perhaps be instilling a marketing savvy never before experienced by the pro league. And his eyes, dull and pained at separate intervals during the afternoon chat, would brighten up when asked to talk about the growth of Liga Pilipinas.

"I'm looking at the Euro league as a model," he said.

This was the commissioner in him talking already. Two days after watching the PBA opening from his television, he was ready to take on this latest challenge in his career.

"I think I'm at peace with what happened to me already," Eala said. "Regardless of what people think, this is not just me trying to prove that I deserve to be the PBA commissioner. This is not me sour-graping. I've never said anything bad about the PBA regardless of what happened."

"This is simply me, moving on and refusing to let down the people who depend on me and have faith in me."

Watching the PBA opening was hard. Dealing with the memories was difficult too. But moving on with a life that still holds a lot of promise? It was as simple as getting up from his cozy chair one Sunday afternoon and turning the television off.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2007

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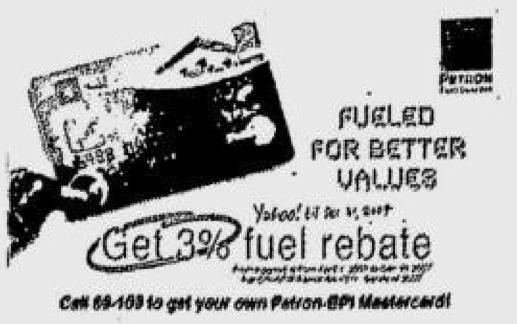

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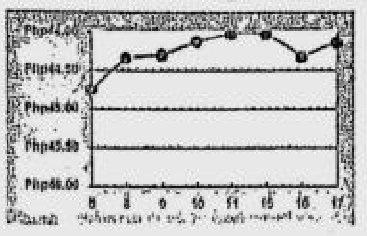


OCTOBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 44.16 = $ 1

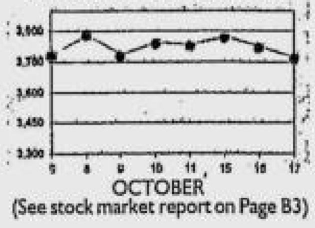
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 17, 2007

¥ 116.50 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 17, 2007

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



OCTOBER

(See stock market report on Page B3)

Shares close 1.5% lower

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 1.5 percent lower as the index fell for the second straight day on worries over the US economy and record high oil prices, dealers said.

SHARES CLOSE/B2

Budget gap hit ₱14.5B in Sept

Deficit is well within gov't target for '07

By Michelle V. Remo

AFTER SEEING ITS BUDGET AT a surplus for three consecutive months, the government posted a deficit of P14.5 billion in September.

According to the Department of Finance, the deficit was lower than the programmed budget gap of P17 billion for the month, and an improvement from the P16.2 billion recorded in the same month last year.

The deficit for September was a result of the P95.4 billion worth of expenditures and P80.9 billion in revenue collection—more than half of which were in the form of taxes from the public.

The fiscal performance for September brought the government's budget standing for the first nine months of the year to a deficit of P40 billion, better than the P54 billion expected for the first three quarters, and an improvement from the P50.4 billion recorded in the same period last year.

"While we continue to see an improve-

BUDGET GAP/ B5

IMF raises RP growth outlook

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY Fund has upgraded its domestic economic growth outlook for the Philippines this year to 6.3 percent from an earlier forecast of 5.8 percent following the stronger-than-expected performance in the first semester.

In its latest World Economic Outlook released in Washington last night, the IMF said growth in emerging Asia remained "exceptionally rapid," led by the robust export and investment growth in China and strong domestic demand in India.

The IMF also pointed out that growth had accelerated in Singapore, where consumption and investment both strengthened, and in the Philippines "where record remittance inflows boosted consumption, and government spending grew strongly."

The Philippines' gross domestic

IMF RAISES/ B6

ING: RP investors bullish but still unsophisticated

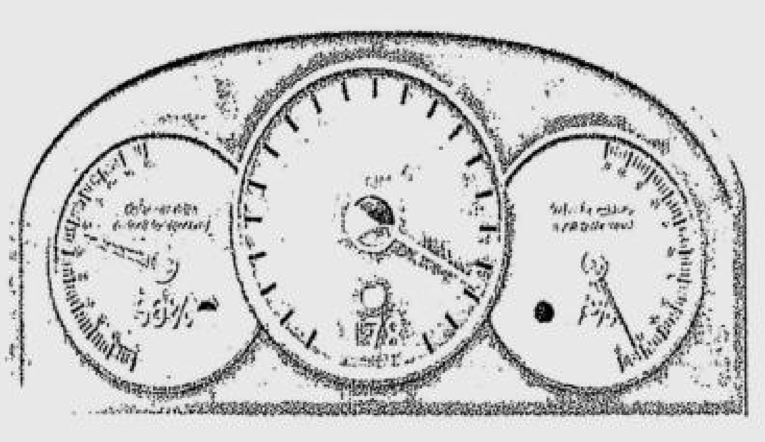
By Daxim L. Lucas

FILIPINO INVESTORS REMAIN optimistic in the final quarter of the year despite the ongoing subprime crisis in the United States, which threatens to spread to other parts of the world, according to the findings of a recent study.

More importantly, however, the results of the Investor Sentiment Tracking Study of Dutch financial giant ING show that locals prefer to invest their funds either in cash deposits or real estate assets, revealing a relative lack of sophistication in contrast with investors in more advanced economies around the region.

The study found that investors in the Philippines are positive in their investment outlook, with 56 percent expecting

ING: RP INVESTORS/ B6



DUTCH financial giant **ING** developed the "dashboard" above to illustrate key findings in its Investor Sentiment Tracking Survey. The dashboard presents the economic outlook, underscoring the increasing affluence of Asians, the investor index for each country, and the percentage of a portfolio held in equities—a popular investment option in the region.

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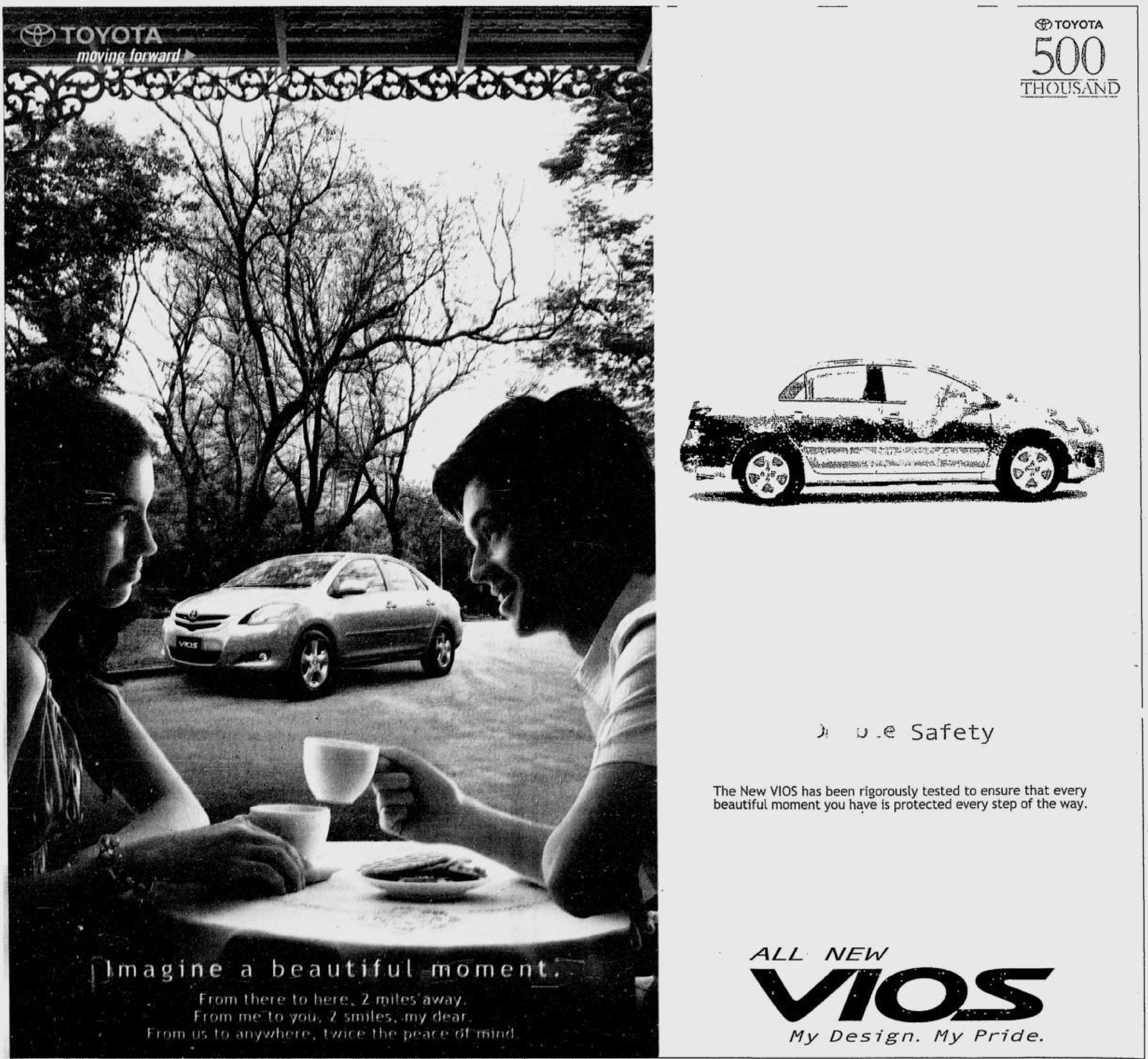
- **Exchange** adds 3 companies to PSEi /B5



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NATIONLINK NETWORK ENABLES NATCCO TO EXTEND ATM SERVICES TO COOPERATIVE MEMBERS NATIONWIDE

The National Confederation of Credit Cooperatives (NATCCO), the country's largest cooperative network, announces the nationwide expansion of its ATM network powered by NATIONLINK, the official industry network for thrift and rural banks, credit and savings cooperatives, and microfinance institutions.

Online since July this year, NATCCO is poised to expand its ATM network to empower more of its members including those in the remote areas of the country.

Aside from the NATCCO-NATIONLINK ATM at NATCCO's headquarters in Quezon City, online ATMs are now found in Iligan at the Mindanao State University - Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT), in Tacloban at the Perpetual Help Credit Coop Inc., in Ormoc at the Metro Ormoc Community Credit Cooperative Inc. (OCCCI), in Dumaguete at the Perpetual Help Credit Cooperative, Inc. (PHCCI) and the Dumaguete Cathedral Credit Cooperative (DCCCO), and in Cebu at the Development Workers Service Cooperative (Dewseco). The Besao Multi Purpose Cooperative in Besao, Mt. Province, and the Basak-Layog Agricultural MPC Cooperative in Tabango, Leyte, are also installing their respective ATMs. NATCCO has ordered 100 more ATMs for its member cooperatives. NATCCO-NATIONLINK ATMs accept transactions from other major ATM networks including Bancnet, Megalink and Expressnet.

With this latest development, the inevitable trend for cooperatives all over the country to offer online ATM services has started. It is also the fulfillment of a desire by the Cooperative Development Authority's Chairperson, Lecira V. Juarez, to unite and network the cooperative movement in order to better serve cooperative members.

From left to right, ZOILO JESUS M. DELA CRUZ III, President and CEO of Infoserve and Founder of Nationlink Network, CRESANTE C. PAEZ, Chief Executive Officer, NATCCO

NATCCO and the cooperative movement have now rallied behind the NATIONLINK advocacy to "Link the Nation, and Transform Lives". Considered as a living miracle by its proponents, NATIONLINK aims to bring modern financial and banking services to the countryside especially to the poor and marginalized.

As the industry ATM/POS network for rural banks, NATIONLINK has provided online connection to various banks in the countryside. A recent partner is Kaunlaran Rural Bank, Inc. (KRBI) in Manaoag, which became the first and only rural bank in Pangasinan to offer online ATM services by being connected with NATIONLINK. Rural banks in Mindanao were the early adaptors of the ATM service. Several more rural banks are poised to go online before the end of the year.

NATIONLINK is also busy serving the Microfinance Industry. It has installed online ATMs in Opportunity Microfinance Bank and Kauswagan Microfinance Bank. The biggest Iloilo-based microfinance NGO in the country, Taytay Sa Kauswagan, Inc. (TSKI) also recently installed their first online ATM-Kiosk as part of their 50 ATM-Kiosk order.

Jess de la Cruz, NATIONLINK co-founder and lead preacher of this living miracle enjoins the countryside financial institutions to unite under this meaningful network. NATIONLINK's technology and networking approach enables associations or federations to retain their respective personalities and legal/political affiliations if they so desire- a practice prevalent among cooperatives and NGOs. NATIONLINK brings the major networks- Bancnet, Megalink, and Expressnet to these countryside institutions. De la Cruz hopes that the major networks will not undermine this lifelong effort to unite these institutions under their very own industry network.

NATIONLINK Network is operated by the leading banking and. software technology provider Infoserve. Its partners include the Philippine Long Distance Company (PLDT) for both wired and wireless connection, Microsoft for the technology platform, Intel which provides the processor of the computers used in the network, Diebold which supplies the ATMs, BancNet for the strategic link to the major networks, and Globe Telecoms for the required back-up connections. It has also recently forged partnerships with HP and IBM.

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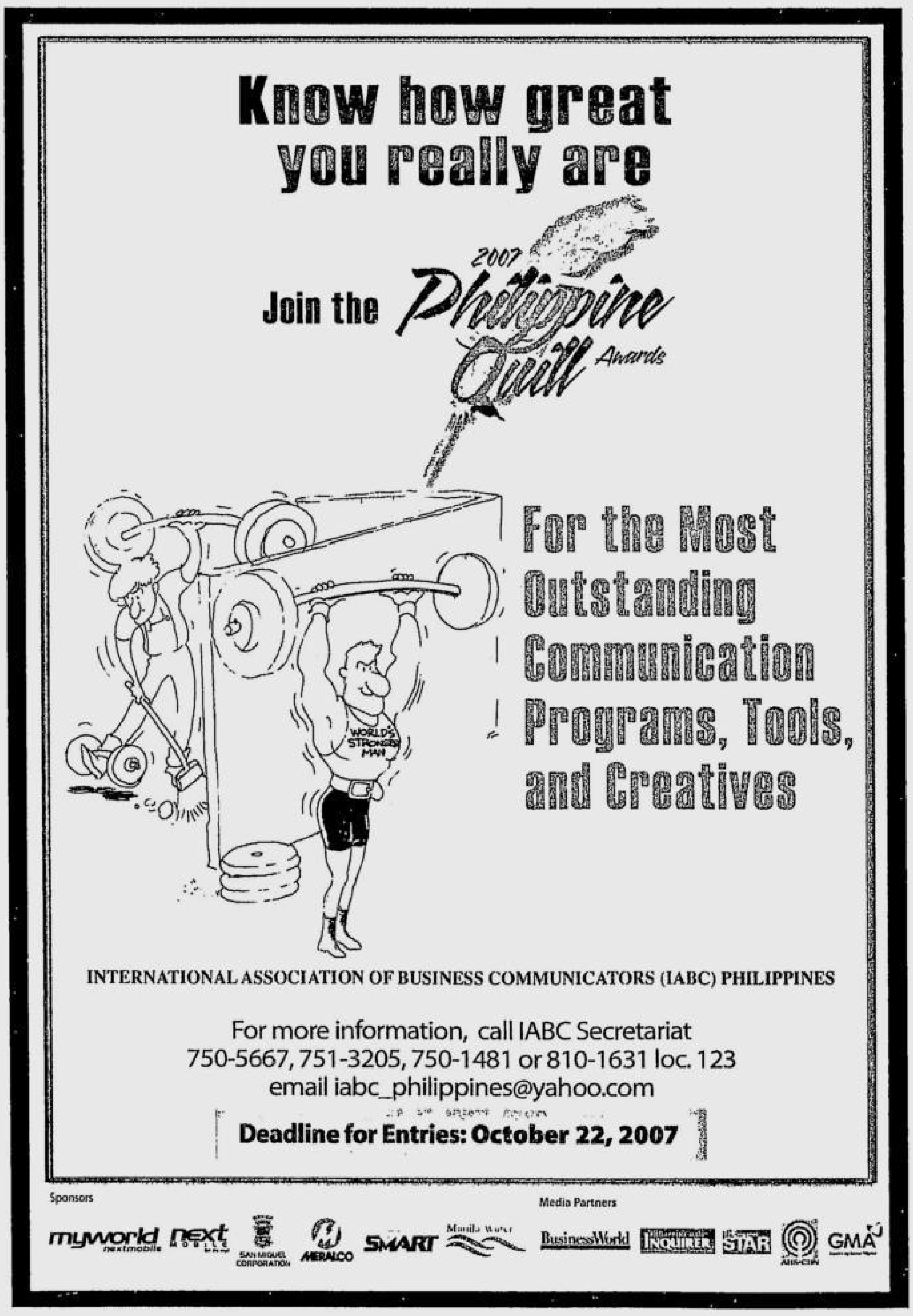
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Big discount at Customs

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THIS ONE IS FOR THE BOOKS.

Not too long ago, the Bureau of Customs, or BOC, filed cases against suspected smugglers of ceramic tiles coming from—where else—China.

The BOC at that time was determined to achieve its collection target set by the Department of Finance, since this administration was facing a fiscal crisis.

The basis for the smuggling case was a simple one: The supposed importers of the ceramic tiles were, well, fictitious.

The police actually verified the identities of the supposed importers, and they found out that those persons did not exist.

Unknown to many in the legal and judicial sector, the BOC did a brilliant move by filing cases against—and you better believe it—the fictitious importers.

I mean, really now, what was the case filing for? Everybody knows that the BOC has a lot of smart lawyers, and so the bureau has to know for a fact that it is impossible to send ghosts to jail.

Something else happened, I guess.

* * *

AND SO the private sector made noises about the clever move of the BOC to run after people who did not exist.

Thus, the PNP investigation showed that the anomaly could have actually started at the data encoding system of the BOC.

The bureau was supposed to have introduced new computerized security systems to combat so-called technical smuggling.

The PNP said, in diplomatic language, that those systems designed to solve the BOC problem were becoming the source of the problem.

The line read: "Corruption somewhere in the data entering."

And to think, the ceramic tile shipment made by the fictitious importers involved some 75 entries at the BOC computerized systems.

Come on, those 75 entries could not have been just a simple lapse, you know, human error! No, sir, they were not accidents!

It takes a special talent to make the same mistake 75 times.

* * *

EASILY, according to documents compiled by the PNP, the shipment involved about P400 million worth of smuggled ceramic tiles.

The "importers," had they been real living breathing walking human beings, should have paid duties and taxes of more than P52 million.

Guess how much was actually paid by whoever actually imported those tiles? Based on records from the EPCIB Binondo branch, total payment of taxes and duties amounted to only P250,000.

Thus, the actual importer got a special discount from the BOC of more than P51 million. How much of the discount went to the miracle workers at the BOC, can now only be the subject of speculation.

But I supposed it was higher than the regular rate at the piers. Cases were already filed against fictitious people, right?

* * *

WHAT IS puzzling about the whole thing was that the PNP already established where the allegedly smuggled ceramic tiles were delivered.

Armed with sworn affidavits from the drivers of the delivery trucks, the police reported that the tiles were brought to stores specializing in ceramic tiles known as "Floor Center."

The PNP report listed eight "Floor Center" outlets that received the alleged smuggled tiles. From what I gathered, the store chain is actually owned by foreigners.

And the BOC filed cases against the fictitious importers.

Despite the PNP findings, no cases were filed against the stores that got the delivery. Don't you just love the BOC?

* * *

IN A RECENT Senate hearing on the BOC budget, Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales estimated the revenue leak due to technical smuggling at P65 billion a year.

Only that much?

The Federation of Philippine Industries, or FPI, which is waging a losing battle against smuggling that is killing its members, believes that the figure could be higher.

For instance, the International Monetary Fund looked at the data from the trading partners of the Philippines, which are the countries that regularly ship goods to us. The IMF found out that, every year, the BOC fails to account for about $13 billion worth of imports.

At a tariff rate of only 5 percent, plus the 12 percent VAT, such a revenue leakage could easily amount to P100 billion.

That could build 100,000 school buildings, at P1 million each, in just one year!

But of course, we are not hearing anything from the DOF regarding the performance of the BOC.

* * *

THE BOC was set to terminate the business organization PCCI, or the Philippine Chamber of Industries, as operator of the so-called Asycuda.

That's the short term for "automated system for customs data," a coding system for imports, rating each shipment for the level of BOC inspection, from the strip-search type to never-mind.

I have a little figure for you—more than P300 million.

It is the amount of money the PCCI already collected so far, based on a fee of only P40 per entry. Good business, huh?

TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS OF SM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:

Please be advised that Shoemart, Incorporated (the "Bidder") has filed a Tender Offer Report in SEC Form 19-1 with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") and the Philippines Stock Exchange (the "PSE") pursuant to Section 19 of the Securities Regulation Code in connection with its intention to acquire all of the **3,722,352,913** outstanding common shares (the "Shares") of SM Development Corporation ("SMDC")

The Bidder has commenced a negotiated acquisition of **One Billion Eight Hundred Twenty Three Million Eight Hundred Forty One Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Five (1,823,841,965)** Shares (equivalent to **49.0 %**) owned by **SM Investments Corporation** which shall be acquired at the same price per share of Three Pesos and Ninety Five Centavos (₱3 95) per share. The Bidder presently owns **15.7 %** of the Shares. Consequently, the subject of this Tender Offer is **1,312,296,345** Shares representing **35.3** % of the Shares.

The offer price for the acquisition of the Shares is **Three Pesos and Ninety Five Centavos (₱3.95)** per share or a total consideration of **₱ 5,183,570,563** and will be payable on Settlement Date.

The Bidder shall acquire any Shares that may be tendered by any stockholder of SMDC in response to the Tender Offer. The Tender Offer shall commence on October 16, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. and shall end on November 16, 2007 at 12:00 noon (the "Tender Offer Period"). The Tender Offer Period may be extended by the Bidder subject to prior approval of the Commission. The Shares to be tendered are intended to be crossed at the PSE on November 19, 2007 (the "Cross Date"). Settlement Date shall be on the same date.

Stockholders who wish to offer all or a portion of their Shares for sale to the Bidder may do so by securing an Application to Tender Shares form (the "Application Form") from and submitting a duly accomplished Application Form together with the documentary requirements to the Transaction Brokers, **BDO Securities Corporation for local investors and Macquarie Securities, Inc**, for international investors.

The Transaction Brokers reserve the right to require the tendering stockholder to present additional documents for purposes of determining the validity, eligibility and acceptability of the Shares being tendered by the stockholder pursuant to the Offer.

The Shares being tendered for sale to the Bidder **must be received by the Transaction Broker in scripless form not later than 12:00 noon of November 16, 2007.** Shares received thereafter or without the required documents shall be rejected by the Bidder.

The Shares tendered may be withdrawn by the stockholder of record at any time during the tender offer period by submitting a written request for the tendered Shares to the Transaction Broker and surrendering the original Securities In-Receipt issued by the Transaction Broker. The last day to withdraw tendered Shares shall be on Friday, November 16, 2007 at 12 noon.

The Shares shall be deemed accepted by the Bidder for payment on November 16, 2007 at 12:00 noon (the "Closing Date") subject to the condition that the Bidder shall have obtained all corporate, contractual and regulatory approvals, consents and authorizations for the purchase by the Bidder of the Shares.

Stockholders are advised to read the Application Form, the Terms of the Tender Offer, and the SEC Form 19-1 filed by the Bidder with the Commission. For queries, please call the Transaction Broker at contact details set forth below. Copies of the Application Form and the SEC Form 19-1 may be obtained by the stockholders of the SMDC, free of charge, from the following:

- For local investors.
  BDO Securities Corporation
  11th Floor The JMT Corporate Condominium
  No. 27 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
  Attention. Janet Amora
  Tel. No.: 667-1572
  Attention: Jasper Jimenez
  Tel. No.: 687-3628
- For international investors:
  Macquarie Securities (Philippines) Inc.
  7TH Floor Tower One and Exchange Plaza
  Ayala Trangle, Ayala Avenue
  Makati City, 1226 Philippines
  New Address on 22 Oct 2007:
  22nd Floor 6750 Ayala Avenue
  Makati City, 1226 Philippines
  Attention: Pamela Ang
  Tel. No.: (632) 857-0838
  (632) 857-0886
  Ruby M. Mallari
  Tel No.: (632) 857-0834
  Email: IBGMSSTLMMnla@macquarie.com
  Fax No.: (632) 891-9779

Shares close ...

From page B1

Most sectors ended in negative territory, they added.

The composite index fell 55.18 points to 3,760.04, off its session low of 3,757.74.

The broader all-share index fell 29.64 points to 2,364.69.

There were 90 decliners and 29 gainers, while 53 stocks were steady.

Volume amounted to 4.2 billion shares worth P4.9 billion ($110.3 million).

"Corporate earnings in the US indicate there's really something wrong with the economy," said Nestor Aguila of DA Market Securities.

US stocks retreated for a second straight session Tuesday after Federal Reserve chair Ben Bernanke said the slumping housing market remains a "significant drag" on the economy.

Manila's key index has retreated by nearly 137 points or 3.5 percent since Oct. 8, when it reached a trading high of 3,896.74.

"While there's been a lot of profit-taking going on in our market, I think that's pretty normal," said Aguila. "The market's uptrend is still intact." *AFP*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 17, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.5	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	9.2	9.2	9	9	42,000
73	39.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	65	65	64	64	964,400
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	69.5	70	68	68	1,313,400
748	520	China Banking Corp.	715	720	715	715	3,060
40	16.52	Chinatrust (Phils.) Comm'l Banking Corp.	38	38	38	38	1,000
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.46	1,010,000
75.5	44	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	67	67	64	64.5	5,051,400
65.5	34	Philippine National Bank	54	54	53	53	73,000
39.57	15	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	29	30	28	30	1,447,500
90	54	Security Bank Corp.	78	78.5	78	78	381,300
66	44.51	Union Bank of the Philippines	52.5	52.5	51.5	51.5	122,500
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.78	ATR KimEng Financial Corp	4.6	4.6	4.45	4.45	13,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	2.04	2.08	2	2.06	8,200,000
16.25	4.3	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	13.25	13.25	12.75	13	478,300
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.04	429,000
42.5	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	42	42	42	42	1,200
5.9	5.3	I-Remit Inc.	5.5	5.9	5.3	5.5	48,445,000
1,885.00	1,560.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,830.00	1,840.00	1,830.00	1,830.00	1,820
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.75	3.75	3.65	3.7	1,340,000
1,130.00	235	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc	1,120.00	1,130.00	1,080.00	1,100.00	55,310
2,355.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,300.00	2,300.00	2,300.00	2,300.00	1,130
1.94	1.3	Vantage Corp	1.62	1.64	1.6	1.6	870,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	2,597,000
0.57	0.23	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.37	0.39	530,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	68	68	67	67	127,100
92	50	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	87.5	87.5	86.5	87	1,739,100
17.5	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	17.25	17.5	16.75	16.75	3,454,000
105.45	23.18	Manila Electric Co.	85	85	81.5	82.5	3,200,800
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7.4	7.5	7.3	7.5	18,933,000
6.6	3.9	Petron Corp.	6.5	6.6	6.3	6.4	10,167,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	8.7	8.7	8.3	8.3	356,000
1.9	0.99	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.3	139,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	26,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.94	1.94	1.82	1.92	1,534,000
6.9	2.24	Central Azucarera De Tarlac	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	12,000
2.4	1.08	CADP Group Corp.	1.54	1.6	1.54	1.6	55,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26	26	26	26	600
61	38.5	Jollibee Foods Corp.	53.5	53.5	52.5	53.5	299,900
0.98	0.5	RFM Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	30,000
3.85	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.7	2.7	2.65	2.7	2,050,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. "A"	60	60.5	60	60	10,400
88	59.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	62	62	61.5	61.5	79,000
6.5	2	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.5	6	6.5	256,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	15.5	15.75	15.25	15.5	3,191,100
0.55	0.26	Vitarich Corp.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.41	180,000
		CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	2.39	EEI Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.1	5.4	1,185,000
21.5	6	Federal Resources Inv. Group Inc.	11.25	14.75	11.25	14.75	1,325,500
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	2,006,000
7	1.94	Republic Cement Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.2	4.2	53,000
2	0.35	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.2	1.2	19,671,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.75	4.75	4.55	4.6	3,079,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.15	Picop Resources Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.41	0.43	22,140,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	2.38	A. Soriano Corp	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	305,000
0.17	0.027	AJO net Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.135	0.125	0.13	139,220,000
1.28	0.23	APC Group Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.8	0.81	7,570,000
3.65	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	492,000
0.018	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	41,000,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	10,200,000
9.7	5.6	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	7.2	7.2	7	7	803,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	384,600,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.9	8,575,000
1.38	0.54	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.89	0.89	120,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.32	2.38	2.3	2.3	1,074,000
8	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc.	4	4	3.9	3.9	41,000
615	397.92	Ayala Corp.	565	570	560	565	229,900
5.8	1.38	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.75	4.75	4.5	4.6	23,158,000
10.25	4.2	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9.9	9.9	9.7	9.7	1,669,000
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	60,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.7	6.9	6.7	6.9	112,000
3.55	1.36	House of Investments Inc.	2.1	2.14	2.08	2.12	210,000
14.5	7	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	11.25	11.25	11	11	400,700
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	2	2	1.9	1.9	139,000
2.6	1.2	Keppel Philippines Holdings Inc. "A"	2.28	2.3	2.28	2.28	80,000
0.95	0.22	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	350,000
11.5	1.38	Minerales Industrias Corp.	8.6	8.7	8.1	8.1	8,716,000
0.28	0.011	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.195	0.235	0.19	0.235	643,660,000
1.54	0.72	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	50,000
0.75	0.18	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.48	0.48	580,000
452.5	249.35	SM Investments Corp.	400	400	392.5	395	642,790
0.73	0.13	Sinophil Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.45	9,690,000
1.06	0.61	Solid Group Inc.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	20,000
1.6	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.46	120,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	18	18	18	18	14,400
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.39	0.4	0.38	0.39	4,210,000
1.1	0.26	Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	60,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	1	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	147,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.9	9,000
1.06	0.32	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.72	0.72	520,000
19.25	11.46	Ayala Land Inc.	17	17	16.75	16.75	11,401,900
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.36	1.36	835,000
4.7	2.8	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.1	4.1	4.05	4.05	36,000
0.86	0.35	Crown Equities Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	310,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.46	0.46	530,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.81	0.81	0.79	0.81	8,860,000
0.47	0.055	Ever Gotesco Resources & Hold'gs Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.27	0.28	14,460,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.1	1.12	9,0[illegible],000
2.44	1.26	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.8	1.8	23,475,000
0.49	0.11	Gotesco Land Inc. "A"	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	380,000
0.5	0.11	Gotesco Land Inc. "B"	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	330,000
1.12	0.31	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.66	0.66	340,000
4.4	1.85	Megaworld Corp.	4.15	4.15	4.1	4.15	52,912,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	583,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.36	0.39	180,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.58	2,920,000
23	12.75	Robinson Land Corp.	20.5	21.25	20.5	21	8,117,000
5.9	1.52	SM Development Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.05	4.2	1,865,000
13.5	6.64	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12	12	11.75	11.75	6,299,600
3.25	1.18	Shang Properties Inc.	2.42	2.46	2.42	2.46	250,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.69	0.69	0.67	0.67	3,850,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.28	0.28	14,160,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	6	6	5.8	6	13,657,000
		MEDIA					
36.5	16.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	29.5	30	29.5	30	39,100
11.75	8.5	GMA Network Inc.	8.7	8.7	8.5	8.6	1,846,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.48	1.5	292,000
1,740.00	1,085.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,720.00	1,720.00	1,690.00	1,700.00	73,180
3,285.00	2,155.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	3,040.00	3,045.00	3,025.00	3,040.00	46,340
8.1	4.7	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	8	8	7.4	7.4	5,150,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.22	1,800,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9.3	9.3	9	9.1	116,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	9.6	9.6	9.2	9.5	1,868,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.047	0.047	0.045	0.045	87,400,000
29.5	8	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	1,000
2.9	1.48	Ionics Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.78	1.78	34,000
0.32	0.044	Island Information & Technology Inc.	0.21	0.215	0.2	0.215	21,530,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.42	1.46	1.4	1.46	120,000
0.0725	0.03	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.0575	0.0575	0.055	0.0575	222,000,000
5.8	1.34	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l Inc.	3.3	3.45	3.25	3.35	6,027,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	38,000
6.8	3.6	Asian Terminals Inc.	4.25	4.25	4	4.05	110,000
42.5	18.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	40	40	39	39.5	344,900
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	2	2	2	2	307,000
2.04	1.04	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	25,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.9	3.2	2.9	3.2	452,000
6	2.16	Manila Jockey Club Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	19,000
4.55	2.8	Philippine Racing Club Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	1,000
0.98	0.32	Premiere Entertainment Prod Inc	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	240,000
1.2	0.45	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.8	0.81	0.8	0.8	2,180,000
		EDUCATION					
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	239,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	1.96	Macroasia Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.2	5.4	2,568,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	13.5	13.5	13	13	77,500
30	10.5	Paxys Inc.	11.75	12.75	11.75	12.75	4,902,000
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	244,900,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.6	2,621,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	5.7	5.7	5.4	5.7	324,000
21.25	7.8	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	15.25	15.5	15.25	15.25	474,100
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. "A"	13	13	12.75	12.75	11,900
35	23	Benguet Corp. "B"	27	27	27	27	5,000
10.5	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	8.8	9	8	8.4	1,564,000
3.1	0.56	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	2.75	2.9	2.75	2.8	97,980,000
0.39	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.37	0.39	0.37	0.37	127,030,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.41	0.42	0.4	0.41	14,070,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.029	0.029	0.028	0.029	132,500,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.033	0.033	0.032	0.032	26,500,000
30	1.9	NIHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	27.5	29	26.5	27	7,437,100
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.014	0.015	793,500,000
9.4	3.5	Philex Mining Corp.	9.1	9.1	8.8	9	11,339,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	39.5	42	39.5	41.5	199,300
1.36	0.43	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1.04	1.04	1	1	2,593,000
1.8	0.59	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	1,370,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.36	1,940,000
0.029	0.0095	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "A"	0.026	0.027	0.025	0.025	66,800,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "B"	0.028	0.028	0.027	0.027	44,900,000
11.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	146,300
0.032	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.028	0.029	0.028	0.029	185,900,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	960.10 DOWN	23.25	103,431,620	1,081,751,755.00
Industrial	4,748.66 DOWN	87.60	98,426,500	873,285,830.00
Holding Firms	2,110.81 DOWN	17.17	1,288,157,390	823,176,255.00
Property	1,723.93 DOWN	22.17	175,504,500	823,162,645.00
Service	1,839.11 DOWN	11.72	359,846,020	476,114,825.00
Mining & Oil	8,162.94 UP	19.10	1,764,104,700	711,414,445.00
All Shares Index	2,364.69 DOWN	29.64		
PSEI	3,760.04 DOWN	55.18		
		GRAND TOTALS	3,789,470,730	4,788,905,755.00

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

More local borrowings eyed

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT WILL INcrease its domestic borrowings next year by P20-P21 billion from what was originally programmed as it intends to reduce its foreign borrowings, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said yesterday.

This will bring to P241.7 billion the government's planned domestic borrowings for next year, up from P220.7 billion as programmed earlier.

The programmed foreign borrowings for the same period, however, will be reduced to P104.4 billion from P125.4 billion set earlier.

Teves said the planned cut in the foreign borrowing program would cover mostly commercial loans and program-type official development assistance.

The government is now looking at a borrowing mix of 70:30 in favor of domestic obligations. The borrowing mix programmed earlier was set at 64:36. Teves , however, said the 70:30 mix has yet to be approved.

"We are looking at ways to help the export sector. The Bangko Sentral has proposed that we (national government) borrow more from domestic sources," Teves said in a press conference yesterday.

The call from the BSP came amid complaints from exporters that the strengthening of the peso had resulted in huge losses for industry.

Cutting foreign borrowings is expected to temper the inflow of foreign exchange into the system.

The peso currently hovers in the 44-to-a-dollar level, stronger than the 48:$1-50:$1 assumed by economic managers when they were crafting the fiscal program for this year.

The strengthening of the peso was attributed to the huge inflows of dollars in the form of remittances from overseas Filipino workers and foreign investments.

The appreciation of the peso makes Philippine-made goods more expensive than rival products from other sources. This, therefore, makes Filipino exporters less competitive in the world market.

But the rise in the peso has its economic benefits, too. A stronger peso trims the government's cost of foreign borrowings, and the savings can be used to beef up spending for social services and infrastructure development.

RP stocks seen to continue rising

By Doris C. Dumlao

STOCKS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE rest of Asia have some more room to go up but investors will have to watch out for heightened market volatility and even sentiment reversal with the backdrop of a slowing global economy, a visiting financial expert from HSBC said. Bruno Lee, head of HSBC's wealth management for Asia-Pacific, told reporters that Asian stocks remained attractive especially with the start of US Federal Reserve's monetary easing following the credit crunch that has spooked the whole world.

The credit squeeze in the US was caused by rising delinquencies among subprime mortgages or housing loans given to borrowers with imperfect credit history and little equity. "The US interest rate is starting to fall so it will push some of the liquidity from deposit and lower risk products to equity markets," the Hong Kong-based Lee said.

He said HSBC's outlook for the region's equity markets was still quite positive but sentiment could still dramatically change.

"Markets will still go up and as the markets rise they can make money," Lee said.

"But volatility is higher and there might be a time that growth may be limited and investors have to balance their portfolio, take some profits for a short while until the market adjust," he said.

He said the global economy was now forecast to slow down but was still growing, thus supporting the equities markets.

In the Philippines, Lee said it wasn't the time yet to get out of the stock market, which had exceeded pre-Asian crisis highs this year.

Petrolift capital hike approved

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMission has approved oil and gas tankering firm Petrolift Inc.'s plan to raise its capital to P2.1 billion, from P400 million.

This came ahead of a plan by Petrolift to hold an initial public offering.

In a statement, Petrolift said the P1.7-billion increase in its capital would consist of 1.7 billion shares with a par value of P1 each.

The company has also reduced the par value of its shares to P1 from P100.

Petrolift Inc. president Lawrence Leonio said the SEC approval would pave the way for the company's plan to raise more funds for its expansion.

Petrolift Inc. earlier filed an application with the SEC and the Philippine Stock Exchange to raise as much as P3.5 billion via an IPO. Petrolift registered 456.75 million shares to be sold at a maximum offer price of P7.65 each.

BDO Capital and Investment Corp. has been tapped as the issue manager and lead underwriter for the planned IPO. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

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2 months	3.50%	3.63%	3.75%	3.88%
3 months	3.63%	3.75%	3.75%	3.88%
6 months	3.75%	3.88%	3.88%	4.00%
12 months	3.88%	4.00%	4.13%	4.25%

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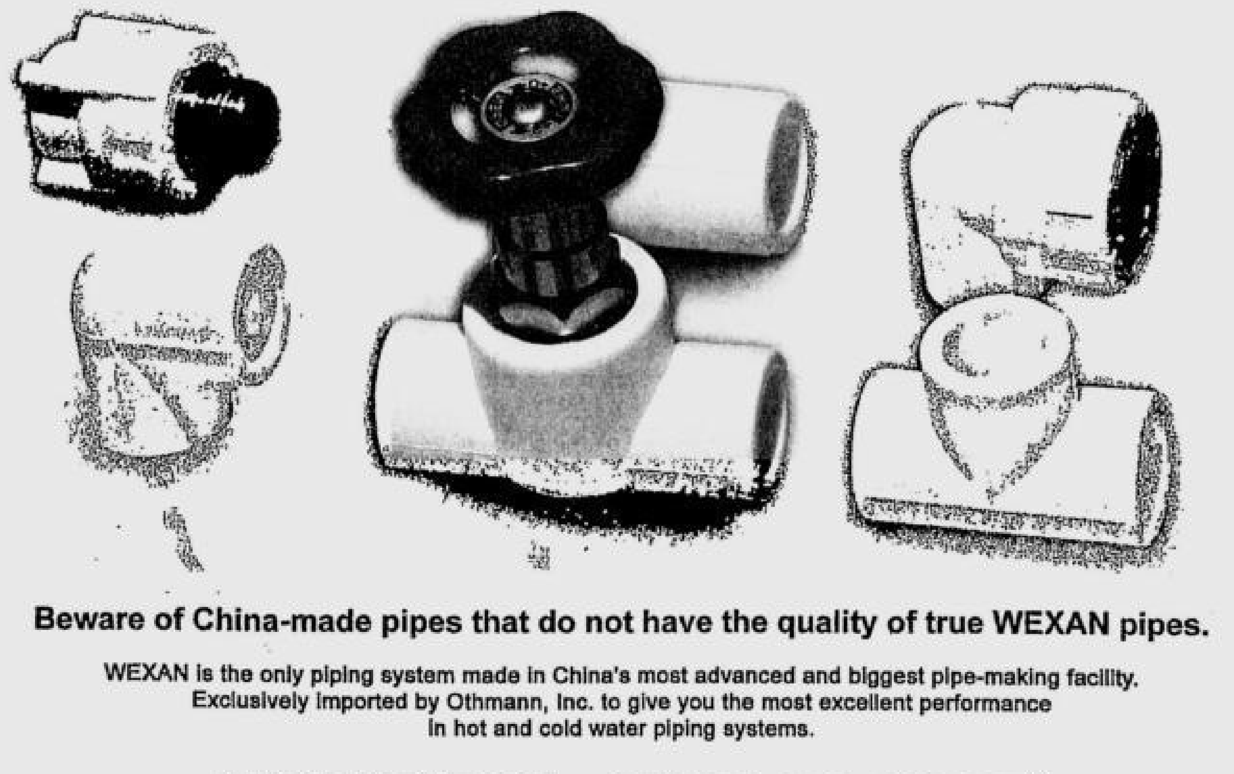

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Exchange adds 3 companies to PSEi

Changes announced following completion of latest index review

CURRENCIES

October 17, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.705567	1.000000	44.2190
Japan	Yen	0.006048	0.008572	0.3790
United Kingdom	Pound	1.433924	2.032300	89.8663
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.090994	0.128966	5.7027
Switzerland	Franc	0.596775	0.845809	37.4008
Canada	Dollar	0.720481	1.021138	45.1537
Singapore	Dollar	0.480599	0.681153	30.1199
Australia	Dollar	0.625336	0.886289	39.1908
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.872723	2.654210	117.3665
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.188755	0.267523	11.8296
Brunei	Dollar	0.478968	0.678841	30.0177
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000078	0.000110	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.022470	0.031847	1.4082
UAE	Dirham	0.192122	0.272294	12.0406
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.417300	62.6716
Korea	Won	0.000770	0.001091	0.0482
China	Yuan**	0.093850	0.133014	5.8817
Denmark	Kroner	0.134204	0.190208	8.4108
India	Rupee	0.017986	0.025491	1.1272
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.208686	0.295770	13.0787
New Zealand	Dollar	0.524819	0.743826	32.8912
Sweden	Kroner	0.109328	0.154950	6.8517
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021603	0.030618	1.3539

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Oct. 16, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of Oct. 16, 2007

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Inquirer

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

GEOTHERMAL POWER PRODUCER PNOC-Energy Development Corp., and property firms Filinvest Land Inc. and Robinsons Land Corp. will be added to the benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) on Nov. 16 following a PSE review of the index components.

The review period was from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007. The PSE reviews its index components every six months or twice a year.

Also following the review, the PSE removed Security Bank Corp. and Manila Mining Corp. from the PSEi.

This will bring the total number of firms in the PSEi to 30 from 29.

To be eligible in the PSEi, companies must meet the following: free float level of at least 10 percent; liquidity or average daily trading value of at least P5 million; volume turnover ratio of at least 10 percent; tradability of at least 95 percent of the total trading days; and free float market capitalization.

PSE president Francis Lim said in a statement that in 2005, the PSE has decided to conduct a regular free float-based review of the indices as part of a strategic program to entice more companies to expand their ownership and foster more stock market growth.

"The absence of a regular index review breeds complacency among the listed companies. Such complacency does not benefit the market or the listed companies," Lim said.

Also, based on the PSE's latest review, all the six sector indices—financial, industrial, holding firms, property, services, mining—will undergo changes in their composition.

Asiatrust Development Bank Inc., CitisecOnline.com. Inc., and the PSE's own listed stock will be added to the "financial index."

To be removed from this index will be Equitable-PCI Bank after its merger with Banco de Oro (now renamed Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.).

The number of firms in the "industrial index" will expand to 19 from 13 with the addition of six more firms. Its six new members will be: Alliance Tuna International Inc., Chemrez Technologies Inc. (formerly Corro-Coat Inc.), Picop Resources Inc., PNOC-EDC, Republic Cement Corp. and Trans-Asia Oil & Energy Development Corp.

The number of companies in the "holding firms index" will increase from 12 to 21 after the inclusion of 10 new stocks and the removal of one—that of Unioil Resources & Holdings Co. Inc.

The additions will be: Abacus Consolidated Resources & Holdings Inc., Alcorn Gold Resources Corp., Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc., Eton Properties Philippines Inc. (formerly Balabac Resources & Holdings Co. Inc.), House of Investments Inc., Minerales Industries Corp. (formerly Multitech Investments Corp.), Pacifica Inc., Prime Orion Philippines Inc., Sinophil Corp. and Wellex Industries Inc.

Nine companies will gain slots in the "property index," while one (Kuok Philippine Properties Inc.), will lose its place in this index. The nine additions will be: A Brown Co. Inc., Ever Gotesco Resources & Holdings Inc., Fil-Estate Land Inc., Interport Resources Corp., Metro Pacific Investments Corp., MRC Allied Industries Inc., Shang Properties Inc., Suntrust Home Developers Inc., and Uniwide Holdings Inc.

Four firms—Asian Terminals Inc., Ionics Inc., ISM Communications Corp. and Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.—will be added to the "services index."

Two companies—Basic Energy Corp. and United Paragon Mining Corp.—will be added to the "mining and oil index."

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ROUNDUP

TKC Steel doubles capacity

LISTED STEEL MANUFACTURER TKC STEEL CORP., THROUGH ITS China unit, has doubled its production to 80,000 metric tons to meet growing demand.

In a statement, TKC Steel said its China-based steel pipe manufacturing subsidiary, ZZ Stronghold Steel Works Co. Ltd., had added a second production line, which will start operations in the first quarter of 2008.

The existing facilities, with a capacity of 40,000 metric tons a year, produce spiral welded pipes used for general construction and water transmission.

To fund the expansion, TKC plans to raise up to P2.7 billion through the offering of additional shares in November. The company has a pending application with regulators to offer additional 235 million common shares for P8 to P11.50 per share. TKC is expected to raise P1.9 billion to P 2.7 billion.

First Metro Investment Corp. was appointed financial adviser and lead underwriter for this offering.

TKC Steel is part of the Tiu Group of Companies that also owns iRemit, an overseas remittance services company; Sterling Bank of Asia, and the Discovery Hotel chain. Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

RP schools eye China market

MORE LOCAL SCHOOLS ARE EYEING A CHUNK OF THE $72-BILLION-per year education market in China, where demand for English language-based education continues to rise.

The Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions said eight colleges and universities—mostly private—are taking part in this year's China Education Expo to be held in Beijing's China World Exhibition Hall, Oct. 20-21.

These schools include Adamson University, Ateneo de Manila University, De la Salle-College of Saint Benilde, Miriam College, St. Paul University, University of Perpetual Help System, and Westfields International School and Technological University of the Philippines, the only public institution in the group.

Citem officials said the strategy was to attract Chinese students with its education services like English as Second Language (ESL), hotel restaurant management (HRM), engineering, accounting and other undergraduate and graduate degree programs. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

ZTE bags InfoVision award

BERLIN—ZTE CORP. OF CHINA BAGGED THE INFOVISION AWARD last week for providing the world state-of-the-art yet highly affordable telecommunication services, including Internet protocol television (IPTV) and high-definition video-on-demand.

"We are very proud of this achievement," said ZTE vice president Chen Jie on the award received by ZTE during the Broadband World Forum Europe 2007 held in Germany.

"This recognizes our research and development efforts to develop superior access network products," added Chen, who is also ZTE's general manager for Wireline and Service products.

A global provider of telecom equipment and network solutions, ZTE received the InfoVision Award for the Access Network Technologies and Services category.

ZTE was cited for its GPON+VDSL2 solution, particularly its ZXA10 C220+ZDXL 9806H product series.

This technology solution enables carriers to cost-effectively deliver next-generation services to their customers, including Internet TV and video-on-demand.

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Initially, 24 entities had
the PNOC-EDC stake.

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and Exchange Commission, Philippine Stock Exchange and iRemit Inc., the
-owned, non-bank remittance company, ring the ceremonial bell at the
yesterday's trading. During its debut yesterday, iRemit shares closed at
ntavos or 17.5 percent from its offer price of P4.68, with some P267.7
aded. Ringing the bell are (from left) First Metro Investment vice president
r and CEO Bansan Choa, iRemit CFO Bernadette Tiu, iRemit president
SEC director Justina Callangan, PSE senior vice president and COO Roy
etro Investment executive vice president Jose Pacifico Marcelo.

Napocor to prepay $1.3B in debts

Agency wants to get rid of costly yen-denominated loans

By Abigail L. Ho

TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE STRONG peso and low interest rates, Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. will prepay or refinance about $1.3 billion of National Power Corp.'s debts in the next six months.

Napocor would use up to 60 percent of about $800 million in total proceeds from power asset sales to be booked this year to retire portion of these obligations.

In a briefing yesterday, PSALM president Jose Ibazeta said the agency would like to unload most of Napocor's yen-denominated obligations and swap most of these into dollar and peso-denominated loans.

"Our outlook on the yen is very strong and we think it will continue to strengthen. I think no portfolio manager wants to hold yen loans right now," he said.

"It's one of the more volatile currencies. We want to reduce these obligations and hold on to more stable currencies. This way, we're also helping Napocor with their financial planning," he added.

Of Napocor's $7.03 billion total obligations, he said $2.46 billion had prepayment options that PSALM could choose to exercise.

He said PSALM was inclined to exercise this option for $1.3 billion of Napocor's obligations, mostly yen-denominated obligations.

Should this planned prepayment push through, the share of yen loans to Napocor's total loans would decline to only 12 percent of total loans, from the current 32 percent.

About 55 percent of Napocor's debts were dollar-denominated. Peso loans accounted for 9 percent of the total. Those in euros accounted for 3 percent of the total, while Korean won loans, one percent.

In prepaying some of Napocor's loans, apart from the proceeds from power asset privatization, Ibazeta said PSALM would also use new debts with longer tenors to prepay Napocor's debts.

Ibazeta said PSALM would likely pick an underwriter by the first quarter of next year to handle new debt—in either peso or dollar bonds or loans—related to the refinancing program.

About 42 percent of Napocor's total obligations would fall due between 2009 and 2011, thus the need for restructuring and refinancing, he said.

If possible, he said PSALM would like to stretch Napocor's debt maturity to 2027.

What PSALM would be working on at this point, he said, was the structure it would adopt in prepaying some of the outstanding debts.

He said the bulk of the privatization proceeds would be used for the debt prepayment. PSALM already has in its coffers $568 million of the about $800 million projected privatization proceeds this year.

In the meantime, James McCormack, head of Asia sovereign ratings at Fitch, said Napocor's steadily improving finances meant it was no longer a threat to the country's rating. He rates the Philippines two notches below investment grade.

"It is not losing the money that it once did. It was a significant drain on public finances and that is no longer the case," McCormack said. "So we don't really have to be concerned about it."

Napocor's financial position started to deteriorate in 1998 after it entered into generous purchase deals with independent power producers during the height of a power crisis.

It ended seven years of losses in 2005 with a net profit of P86 billion, helped by foreign exchange gains, higher power charges and cost-cutting measures. *With a report from Reuters*

ormance opens RP's largest call center to date

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CONTACT SERVICE PROVIDER Teleperformance Group is launching on Friday what officials say is the country's biggest call center with 2,500 seats at the Edsa Central in Mandaluyong City.

Called New Edsa IT Center 2, the new center is a two-level building occupying about 16,000 square meters with 2,500 fully equipped workstations.

Teleperformance, which has corporate headquarters in Paris, France, and Miami Beach, Florida, also plans to open two more sites in two years to bring its workforce here to at least 10,000 people.

Daniel Julien, the Florida-based chair of Teleperformance SA, said in a statement that the opening of the newest center was a response to "the increasing number of businesses considering the value of constant communication flow and to the thrust among industry leaders in the booming call center industry toward the elevation of their service standards."

Julien said Teleperformance was "the international contact center leader and operates in 45 countries with the largest integrated network of domestic, nearshore and offshore solutions."

"While expanding our footprint in the United States, it quickly became obvious that we had to offer strong offshore solutions for the US market," he said.

"The Philippines is a major component of our integrated offer of offshore solutions to the US market, along with Mexico, El Salvador, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, India, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica," he added.

Teleperformance started operating in the Philippines in 1996 and now has 7,500 employees.

"We are so pleased that we plan to continue our expansion here at double-digit numbers for the coming years," Julien said. "This outlook shows well our commitment as global investors in the Philippines."

In the same statement, Teleperformance USA chief executive Dominic Dato said Teleperformance has had a long and exceptionally positive experience in the Philippines due to a consistent level of support at the national, regional and local levels and the cultural affinity between the two countries.

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NOC-EDC
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owed the list of bidders for
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expressed interest to bid for

Budget gap …

From page B1

ment in our overall fiscal performance, there is a need to further strengthen our revenue collection efforts," Teves said yesterday in a press conference. "We are also pursuing privatization to ensure that we will be able to raise the needed revenue to fund vital infrastructure and social services needed by our people."

Teves said the fiscal performance for the first three quarters of the year meant that the target for the entire year—a deficit of P63 billion—was within reach.

Of the total revenues collected in September, the Bureau of Internal Revenue accounted for P48.9 billion, while the Bureau of Customs collected P19.1 billion in duties and taxes.

The BIR collection for January to September reached P521.9 billion. This meant that the bureau still has to collect P244 billion in the remaining months of the year to meet its full-year target of P765.9 billion.

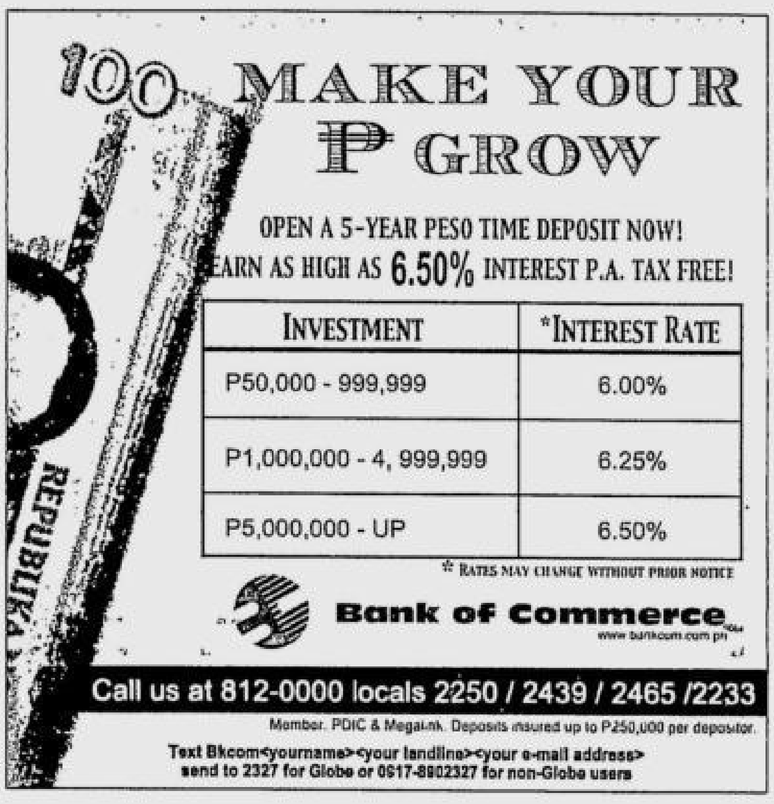
The BOC's nine-month collection hit P153 billion. It still has to generate P75.2 billion throughout the rest of the year to meet its 2007 target of P228.2 billion.

The Bureau of the Treasury, which collects dividends from state-owned firms and generates income from investments in foreign-currency denominated instruments, contributed P8.6 billion to government coffers in September. Its nine-month collection hit P57.2 billion.

Other government agencies contributed a combined revenue of P4.3 billion in September, and P80.2 billion in the first nine months.

On the spending side, the DOF said, P30.2 billion went to the settlement of interests on loans incurred by the government. The same expenditure item accounted for P222.7 billion of the government spending for the first nine months.

Teves said the government would continue to sell state-owned assets to ensure that enough revenue would be generated to meet its deficit-reduction goal for the year.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Offers the best traditions and products that Chinatown and Asia are known for. Designed particularly for business opportunities that offer uniqueness, authenticity and productivity.

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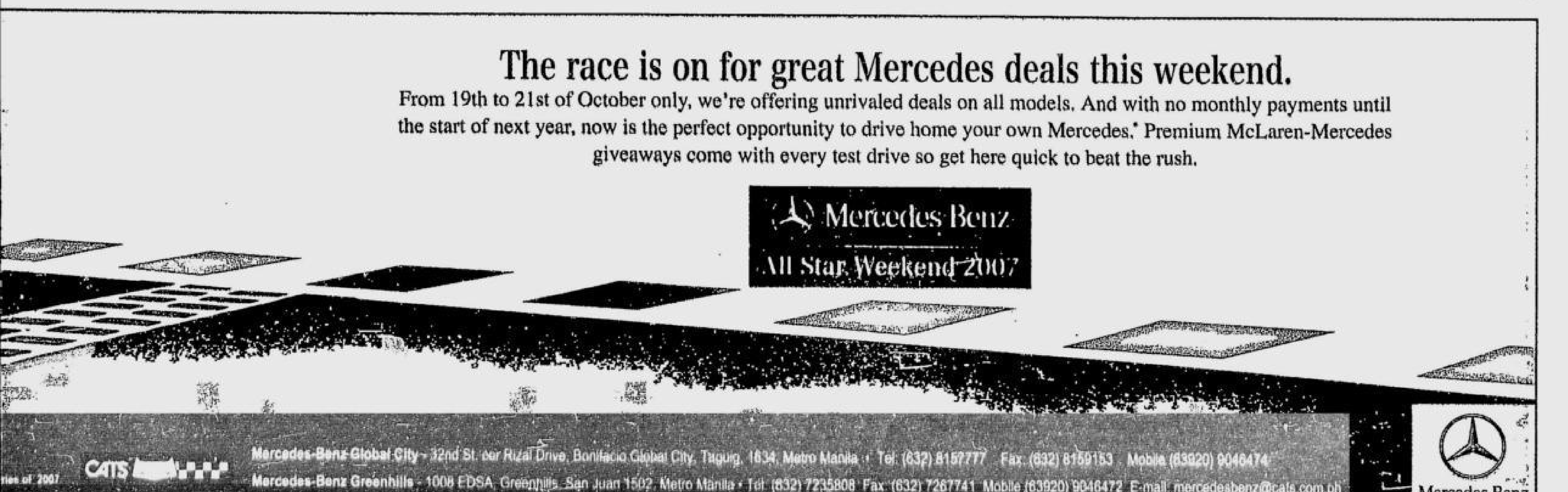
Bay Pacific Neo Chinatown, Inc.

Soft Opening on October 20, Saturday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Countdown begins in Singapore for flight of Airbus superjumbo

SINGAPORE—THE FIRST AIRbus A380 superjumbo was set to land in Singapore yesterday as the countdown began for next week's maiden commercial flight of the biggest passenger airliner ever made.

Decked out in the blue and gold of launch customer Singapore Airlines, the A380 was en route from France, where Airbus officials finally saw off the giant plane after 18 months of delays and billions of dollars in cost overruns.

Production problems on the double-decker behemoth embarrassed the European manufacturer, a bitter rival of US firm Boeing, but Singapore Airlines (SIA) stuck with its initial order of 10 planes and later ordered nine more.

"Although it has taken more time than initially anticipated, the A380 is well worth the wait," SIA chief executive Chew Choon Seng said at a ceremony in France on Monday, when the airline took possession of the first airliner.

Chew hailed a "new chapter in the history of aviation" with the A380, which will make its first commercial flight on Oct. 25 between Singapore and Sydney.

Seats on that flight were sold in an auction for charity on the eBay online marketplace. Regular service on the route begins on October 28.

The superjumbo is enormous—each wing could hold about 72 cars, and each plane contains more than 500 kilometers (300 miles) of wiring.

It could carry 853 passengers in an all-economy configuration.

But in what could be a trend for the aircraft, Singapore Airlines has installed just 471 seats to offer more space, particularly in business and first class.

SIA's version has 399 economy seats, 60 business seats, and a "Suites" class of 12 compartments with 58-centimeter (23-inch) flat-screen televisions, sheets by French designer Givenchy and a full-length bed behind sliding doors.

"The impact of Singapore Airlines' cabin innovations will ripple out across the industry," Airbus chief executive Thomas Enders said.

SIA, which early on began advertising that it would be "first to fly" the A380, had expressed disappointment with holdups in the superjumbo.

Delivery was delayed by 18 months and Airbus estimated the cost overruns at around $6.8 billion.

But all was forgotten as the airline took out full-page advertisements in Asia to herald its suites class and trumpet the arrival of the plane, which was due to touch down in Singapore yesterday evening.

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, SIA chairman Stephen Lee, and Airbus chief executive officer John Leahy were to give welcoming speeches at a ceremony at the city-state's Changi Airport.

The first A380 delivered to Singapore Airlines arrives at the Airbus center in Toulouse Blagnac, France. REUTERS

The prime minister was to tour the plane after its arrival.

The A380 problems over the past two years provoked management changes as well as a politically sensitive cost-cutting plan at Airbus.

Airbus says the A380 will offer the lowest cost per passenger of any airliner flying and will also emit less carbon dioxide per passenger and significantly reduce noise at takeoff and landing.

The A380 will gradually replace SIA's Boeing 747 jumbos

AFP

Asian stocks hit by US concerns

HONG KONG—ASIAN STOCKS FELL ON Wednesday with a panic selloff in Indian shares, sparked by plans to curb inflows of foreign funds, weighing on sentiment already soured by disappointing earnings from big US banks.

Weakness in equities and fresh worries about problems in global credit markets shored up demand for safe-haven assets including Japanese government bonds, while the yen rose against other major currencies ahead of a meeting of finance ministers from the Group of Seven industrial countries on Friday.

European stocks were seen steadier yesterday after a two-session drop, with record high oil prices seen likely to provide some support for energy firms.

Indian stocks, the biggest movers in Asia, dropped as much as 9 percent as investors reacted to proposed urgent curbs on flows of foreign funds into shares, which have helped push the market to record highs.

The fall was reminiscent of a rout in Thailand stocks in late December after investors took fright at drastic measures to rein in the baht currency.

"If you remember the Thai situation late last year, most central banks in the region came out and said they weren't considering any such measures. So hopefully, that means the impact will be relatively contained this time too," said Tim Rocks, equity strategist at Macquarie Securities.

The Indian market trimmed hefty losses following a one-hour trading halt and after the Securities and Exchange Board of India said it was recommending changes in policy on participatory notes after consulting the government. Foreign investors can use the notes to buy shares and bonds.

By early yesterday afternoon, MSCI's measure of Asia Pacific stocks excluding Japan was down 1.1 percent and off an intraday one-week low, while Tokyo's Nikkei average also fell 1.1 percent to a 2-½ week closing low. India's BSE Index was down 5.5 percent.

The MSCI index has shed nearly 3 percent from a record high set last Thursday.

Financial shares remained a major drag on markets after big US banks including Wells Fargo & Co. posted profits that missed Wall Street estimates due to credit losses.

Australia's Macquarie Bank lost 0.9 percent, Japan's Mitsubishi UFJ slid 4 percent and Singapore's second biggest lender United Overseas Bank dipped 0.9 percent.

Elsewhere, global miner Rio Tinto slid 3.1 percent after posting a third-quarter production report that showed mined copper output fell 6 percent.

Despite upbeat results from technology bellwether Intel Corp. and Yahoo Inc., regional tech issues were mixed, with only Yahoo Japan the clear winner, rising 5.3 percent, after Yahoo Inc.'s results and optimistic outlook.

An Indian office worker reacts while watching the digital display screen outside the Bombay Stock Exchange in Mumbai as trading stopped after the benchmark 30-share Sensex index plunged 1,743.96 points, or 9.15 percent, to 17,307.90 in opening trade after hitting a record high above 19,000 on Oct. 15. AFP

In the forex market, the partially convertible Indian rupee suffered its biggest one-day drop in over nine years, falling towards a two-week low of 40 rupees to the dollar.

Foreign portfolio inflows to Indian shares have jumped $4.6 billion this month, taking the total in 2007 to a net $17.6 billion. The strong inflows helped push the rupee to 9-½ year highs last week.

Meanwhile, diminished risk appetite helped the yen gain against higher-yielding currencies such as the euro and the Australian dollar.

Investors have been borrowing the low-yielding yen to purchase riskier but better-yielding assets but they tend to reverse or avoid those trades at times of heightened risk aversion.

"The currency market is swung around by the stock markets, with higher-yielding currencies getting the brunt of a risk reduction trend," said a dealer at an European bank.

The dollar fell to a two-week low near 116.15 yen while the euro dipped below 165 yen, both well off recent highs near 118 yen for the dollar and 167.72 yen for the euro.

The Australian dollar was at 88.27 US cents and 102.68 yen compared with peaks near 90.80 US cents and 106.86 yen on Monday.

In this environment, Japanese government bonds (JGBs) shone, pushing yields lower. The yield on the benchmark 10-year JGB slid 5 basis points to a two-week low of 1.645 percent.

Gold took a breather after striking a 28-year high in the previous session. It traded at $756.60 an ounce, off Tuesday's peak of $766.60.

After hitting a fresh record of $88.20 a barrel on Tuesday on supply fears and tensions between Iraq and Turkey over Kurdish separatist activity, US crude eased to $87.23.

Reuters

US industrial output shows weakness

WASHINGTON—US INDUSTRIAL output turned in another weak reading in September as auto production dropped sharply and housing-related industries continued to face lackluster demand.

The Federal Reserve reported Tuesday that industrial output edged up 0.1 percent in September following no change at all in August. The August reading had been reported a month ago as a stronger 0.2 percent gain.

The National Association of Home Builders reported that builder confidence fell to an all-time low of 18 in October. The index had been at 20 in September.

The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 71.86 points to close at 13,912.94.

The concern is that the deep slump in housing and a severe credit crunch will trigger further cutbacks in industrial production as businesses grow cautious about the future.

Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke said Monday night the housing slump would be a "significant drag" on the economy into next year and he predicted that it will take time for financial markets to fully recover from the credit crisis that erupted in August.

Many analysts believe the Fed, which cut a key interest rate for the first time in four years at its September meeting, will follow up with further rate cuts to make sure the economic troubles don't push the country into a recession. The Fed's next meeting is Oct. 30-31.

The report on industrial output showed that production of autos and auto parts fell a sharp 3.3 percent in September following a 1.6 percent drop in August. Part of the September weakness was blamed on the brief two-day strike at General Motors.

All of manufacturing posted a small 0.1 percent increase in September after a sharp 0.4 percent drop in August.

That weakness followed solid gains of 0.6 percent in June and 0.8 percent in July.

The utilities saw output decline by 0.1 percent in September after a 4.6 percent surge in August that had reflected a heat wave that hit much of the country.

Output in mining, a category that includes oil production, edged up 0.2 percent in September, a rebound following a 0.6 percent drop in August.

Analysts believe that US factories will be under pressure in the months ahead, reflecting waning demand for domestic-made cars and weakness in housing-related industries.

"Global strength should continue to produce strong enough export demand to keep the US manufacturing recovery alive, but mounting risks to the economic outlook will keep the pace of factory output subdued," said Cliff Waldman, an economist for the Manufacturers Alliance/MAPI.

Nigel Gault, an economist at Global Insight, said auto manufacturers have been busy cutting output in an effort to keep inventories under control in the face of weak demand this year while housing-related sectors such as wood products and furniture have suffered because of the severe downturn in housing.

"Solid export demand should support other sectors, especially capital goods, and prevent a more severe manufacturing slowdown," he said, predicting that manufacturing growth of 4 percent in the third quarter would slip to growth of just 1.2 percent in the current quarter.

With the tiny increase in output in September, the US factories, mines and utilities operated at 82.1 percent of capacity, unchanged from August.

AP

ING: RP investors bullish but still ...

From page B1

the economic situation to improve in the next three months.

"This reflects the overall positive sentiment in Asia Pacific, with the two 'hottest' Asian economies—India and China—being the most bullish," ING said in its study.

"The survey findings suggest a possible correlation between investors' level of sophistication and their confidence in the market," ING Investment Management Philippines managing director Cesar Zulueta said. "While investors in more mature economies, such as Australia, Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore are seen to be more conservative in their outlooks; those in India, China, Malaysia and the Philippines, on the contrary, are optimistic."

In the Philippines, "the optimism might also be attributed to positive macroeconomic developments and foreign direct investments," he added.

Despite the bullish sentiment in the country, the study also highlighted the relative immaturity of local financial markets and investors vis-à-vis its regional counterparts.

The results showed that 48 percent of Filipinos favor cash and deposits as their mode of keeping assets, followed by 22 percent who favored to invest in property.

The property sector is also the second most popular investment tool in most of Asia, favored by investors in Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia and India.

Investors in the Philippines have the strongest interest in the real estate market with 40 percent of them planning to invest more in properties in the next three months.

"While there is an increasing interest in the local stock market, with 20 percent of Filipino investors planning to increase their investments in the local stock market, this goes against the regional trend where local stocks emerged as the most popular choice of investors in Asia with over half of the surveyed countries, namely Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Korea, China, Taiwan and Thailand, selecting this asset class as their most preferred investment tool," it said.

"In the Philippines, however, only 8 percent of investors selected stocks as their most preferred investment tool," ING said.

The ING study also noted that, in the Philippines, interest in initial public offerings has been gaining. The survey shows confidence in the local IPO market, with a healthy 44 percent of respondents planning to subscribe to companies that are up for listing in the next three months.

Also, as much as 69 percent of Filipino investors expect their return on stock investments to be just as strong in the next three months—making local investors the third most bullish in the region after China and India.

IMF raises RP ...

From page B1

product (GDP), the single most important economic output indicator which sums up all the goods and services produced in a given period, grew at its fastest pace in 20 years in the first half. The second quarter GDP growth was recorded at 7.5 percent following a revised 7.1 percent expansion in the first quarter.

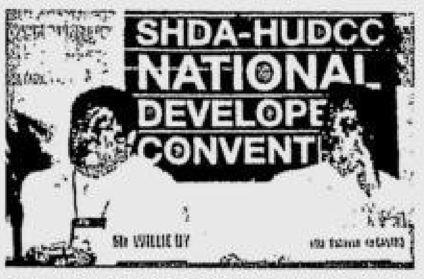
The country was projected to post the fifth highest growth rate in emerging Asia this year, next to China's 11.5 percent, India's 8.9 percent, Singapore's 7.5 percent and Pakistan's 6.4 percent. It was also expected to be the best performing among Southeast Asia's four largest economies, edging out Indonesia's 6.2 percent, Thailand's 4 percent and Malaysia's 5.8 percent.

For 2008, a slower growth of 5.8 percent was projected for the Philippines, in line with the projected softening of growth in emerging Asia from this year's 9.2 percent to 8.3 percent.

In most countries, the IMF said, inflation remained low or had eased considerably following earlier upward pressures. In Indonesia and the Philippines, this development allowed their respective central banks to cut benchmark interest rates.

The IMF projected that inflation in the Philippines would ease from last year's average of 6.2 percent to 3 percent this year, but slightly pick up to 4 percent next year.

SHDA, HUDCC to host country's largest housing fair



SHOWN are (from left): Willie Uy, SHDA board of governors chair and Honorable VP Noli de Castro, HUDCC Chair.

THE SUBDIVISION AND HOUSING Developers Association (SHDA), in partnership with the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), the leading Developer's organization in the housing industry will be jointly organizing the upcoming 2007 SHDA-HUDCC National Developers' Convention and Exhibition to be held from Oct. 24 to 26, at the prestigious World Trade Center Metro Manila (WTCMM).

Armed with its vision to champion the welfare of member developers, deliver quality and affordable housing, uniting the developers and practitioners in the housing sector and work in partnership with the government in addressing the country's housing needs through responsive and innovative policies, the show will be held coinciding a massive convention that includes an impressive line up of speakers representing various sectors of the industry headed by our Honorable Vice President, Noli de Castro.

According to Willie Uy, chair of SHDA's board of governors, "SHDA is committed to address the housing needs of the country. We believe that the time has finally come for SHDA to organize a truly world-class exhibition and convention - an event that will serve the rising demands of SHDA members for the latest products, technology and services available in the Global market. We will also be working with one of the country's largest trade show organizer, Global-Link MP Events International Inc, to ensure that this event would be truly world-class."

Some of the conference topics include Housing Investment and Economic Prospects, Housing Finance Forum with government's Pag-IBIG, SSS together with the private sector's home-lending banks, New Construction Technology Forum, Global Market Opportunities - USA, Korea, Japan and the Middle East, Legislative Agenda on Housing and many more. "For SHDA to address not only the country's housing needs but to also attain our overall objective, together with our entire membership, we will be putting all our efforts together to ensure that this upcoming exhibition and convention will be a great success for everyone. SHDA means business!" Roy Calleja, national president SHDA declared.

This important occasion will be a truly comprehensive marketplace to meet all the bellwether companies that makes up the SHDA membership. This is your premier launching pad to introduce new products and technologies, meet decision makers, forge partnerships and get a head start in this fast growing industry. For more information about the exhibit and convention, please contact Jing Cristobal, project manager of Global-Link MP at tel: 750-8588 or fax: 750-8585 or e-mail jing.cristobal@globallinkph.com.

"Aside from over 500 delegates coming from all over the country and 2,000 special guests of SHDA, all relevant decision makers in the industry will be invited to view the latest products, technology and services available in the market today. You can expect to meet: architects, building designers, building and subdivision owners, construction companies, contractors, developers, home owners, importers and wholesalers, furniture makers, interior designers, property developers, subcontractors, town and urban planners and end-users." Ed Alunan, convention chair added.

This show is expected to be the primary source to find the latest cost saving and energy efficient products and technology, construction equipment and building materials for all types of housing, residential and commercial projects. The attendees will be eager to see your products and services in these areas: architectural and interior decorations, building materials, cement and concrete, concrete and steel, construction equipment, hardware and plumbing products, home technology and automation, kitchen and bathrooms, lighting and electrical, paints and chemicals, steel and pipes, tile, finishes and surfaces, window and glass technology and many more.

"We are proud to announce that after two weeks of promotion, over 50 percent of the exhibition space has already been reserved or confirmed. We have sponsors and exhibitors from all over the industry and this is indeed a good sign for the things to come. We at SHDA believe that this is the best way to serve our growing membership - to provide them with the technology, supplies and services to be globally competitive. Our theme this year is: A Matching of Global Markets and Technologies." added Calleja.

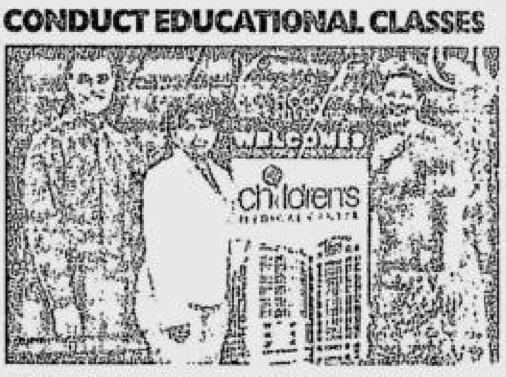
AYALA MUSEUM TO STAGE SHELL'S BEST 100 ART ENTRIES AND WINNERS

On its 40th year, the Shell National Students Art Competition (NSAC) will stage this year's awarding ceremony and exhibition of its winners and 100 best entries at the Ayala Museum scheduled in November 2007. The Shell NSAC is the country's prestigious and longest running art competition in the country. Since its inception in 1951, it has launched the careers of many of today's established and rising Filipino artists among them: Jose Joya, Ang Kiukok, Bencab, Federico Alcuaz, Juvenal Sanso, Danny Dalena, Angel Cacnio, Angelito Antonio, Nestor Vinluan, Junyee, Mario Parial, Norberto Carating, Fred Liongoren, Charito Bitanga and Norma Balleza. NSAC is an annual Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation event open to all college students all over the country who just submitted their entries recently in four categories: oil/acrylic, watercolor, sculpture and digital arts. The 40th Shell National Students Art Competition is also co-sponsored by Air 21, Star Paper, Shell V-Power, Shell Card, Shellane, Shell Helix, Gallery Orange, Museo Iloilo, CAP Art Center and Genluna Gallery. Signing the exhibition agreement are Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp vice president for communications Roberto S. Kanapi (seated, left) and Ayala Museum director Angela de Villa-Lacson (seated, right) in a simple signing ceremony held recently at the Ayala Museum, Makati City Witnessing the agreement are Pilipinas Shell sustainable development manager Mylene Santos (standing, right) and Ayala Museum business marketing manager Rinnah Sevilla (standing, left).

MKNY SIGNS UP HEART ANEW

Fashionable shoe brand MNKY Footwear has signed up celebrity endorser Heart Evangelista once again, now on her third year, as the brand's image model. As a fashion trend-setter, coupled with her wholesome and bubbly personality, Heart truly embodies the brand image. MKNY will launch its latest line of comfortable, trendy footwear for teens and young adults such as colorful ballet flats, sleek wedge-heel pumps, sandals and sneakers made with various innovative materials. MKNY Footwear is available at leading department stores nationwide. Present during the contract-signing are (from left): Manila Genesis Entertainment & Management Inc representatives, Rafael Altavas and Angeli Pangilinan-Valenciano, Heart Evangelista, Office Depot Corp executives Nixon Co, Cefeluisa Arellano and Ceferina Co

HCCA, CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER CONDUCT EDUCATIONAL CLASSES



Health Care Corp of America or HCCA, in partnership with Children's Medical Center in Dallas, Texas, recently held a series of educational classes for HCCA and invited Filipino pediatric nurses, as part of HCCA's corporate social responsibility efforts in the Philippines. The educational classes-conducted by Children's Medical Center clinical educator and registered nurse Roxanne Baiers in cooperation with HCCA - is part of the company's initiative to give back to the local nursing community and assist in efforts to cultivate world-class nurses and globally competitive healthcare professionals. Parties interested in the educational and sponsorship programs of HCCA Philippines may contact the company at 757-1000. HCCA Philippines is located at 33rd Floor Tower 1 The Enterprise Centre, 6766 Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Photo shows (from left) Eddie Anstey, director of operations, HCCA Philippines Tammie Awwad, client services manager, HCCA International and Roxanne Baiers.

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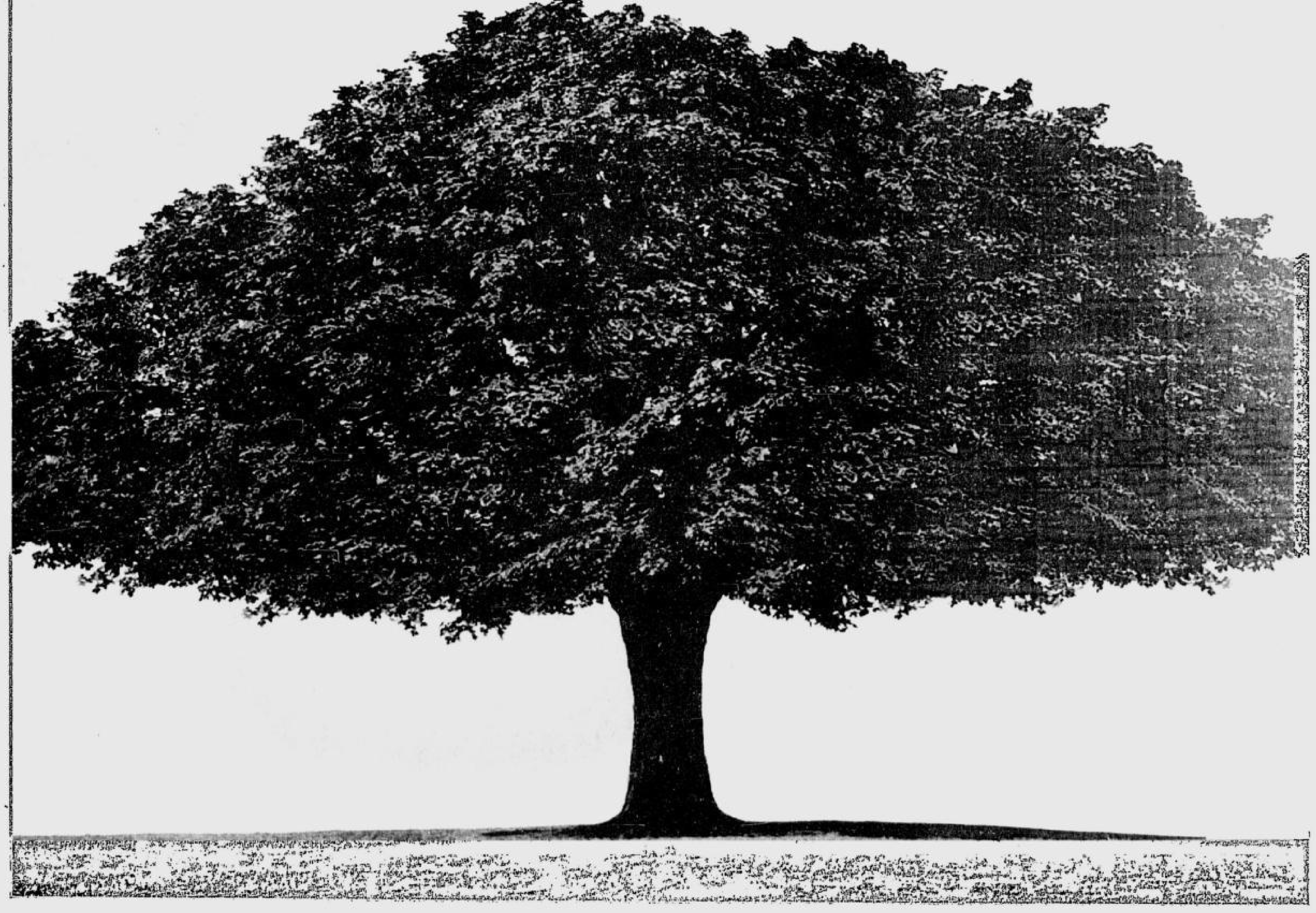

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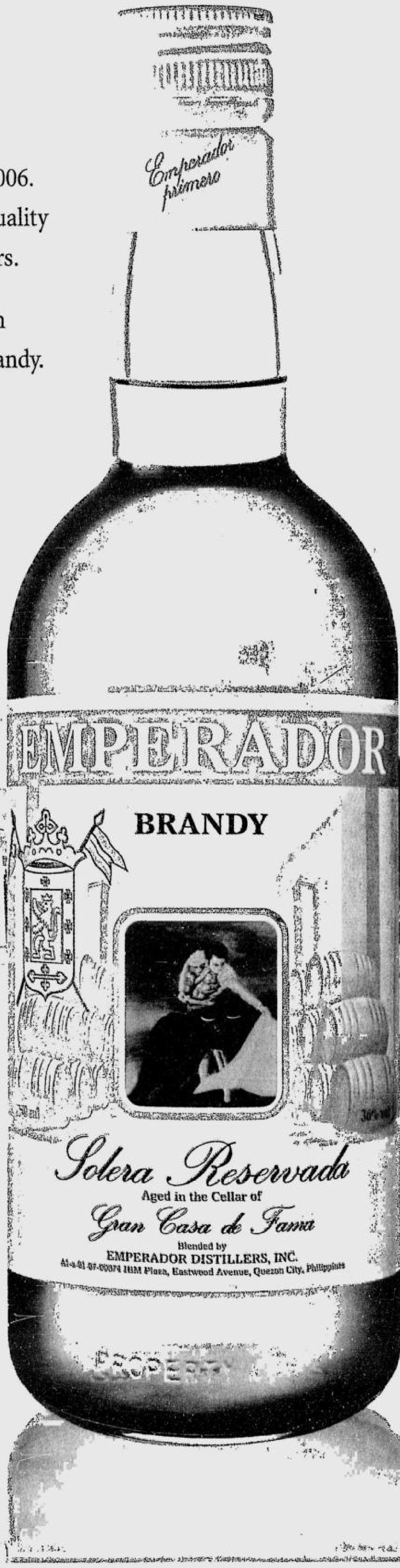
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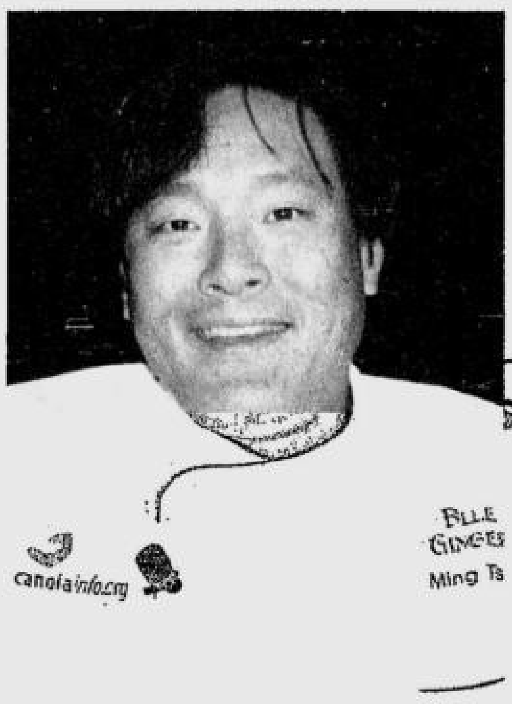
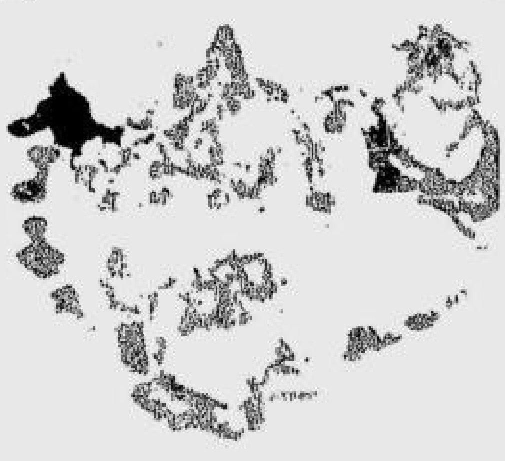
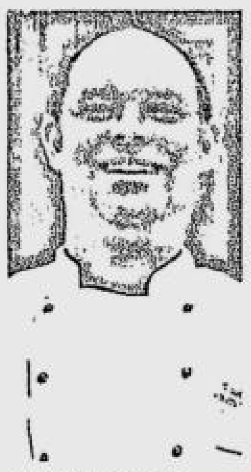


MING Tsai before his cooking demo



PAUL Luttmann's award-winning chicken Meritage with jasmine rice pilaf



CHEF Paul Carr cooks for Olympics athletes.

'I didn't get to taste the food chef Ming cooked but from the aroma, it seemed a worthwhile recipe'

COUNTRY COOKING
Micky Fenix

Three chefs at a dieticians' convention

MING TSAI LOOKED LARGER IN person. He seemed to have gained weight since his "East Meets West" and "Ming's Quest" programs on the Lifestyle channel.

He was such a big draw at the Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo in Philadelphia during the last week of September. A long line of people waited for the function room doors to open for his cooking demonstration.

I stood for a full 20 minutes to catch a glimpse of this television star chef.

But what was I doing at a food and nutrition conference?

I was sent by the United States Department of Agriculture Cochran Fellowship Program on a study tour. The first leg was the conference of dieticians because part of the program was to learn about health and wellness.

Ming was a guest of one of the many companies that had booths at the Expo. The flyer caught my eye and I resolved to see the chef I only watched on television.

On stage with chef Ming was Carolyn O'Neil, a registered dietician and a noted food journalist. She annotated the cooking demo, giving out the chef's new book "Simply Ming" to anyone who answered her questions correctly.

I did not venture to answer because the questions were much too technical for a non-dietician, involving subjects like saturated and unsaturated fats. She called them "fun fat facts."

But I was the first to ask boldly if Ming would pose for me, signaling to him backstage if I could take his picture. He smiled then said he would move forward onstage for a better shot.

After that, everyone ran to the front to have pictures of him and with him.

Funnyman

As he demonstrated how to do curry ginger oil and then apply that oil mixture to either chicken or beef, he kept the audience in stitches with his stories of food trips, his family (his mother stole ashtrays in French hotels) and the Boston Red Sox.

He was more talkative and livelier onstage than on his TV shows. I had difficulty understanding many of his comments, though. It must have been his Boston accent.

My seatmate apparently got every comment and thoroughly enjoyed himself. He did not know that I was laughing because he was laughing.

I did get the bit about how he thought Blue Ginger was such a cool name for his restaurant. He found out later that the *galangal* (Filipino *langkawas*) was also known as blue ginger. So much for that creative idea, he said.

I did not get to taste the food. A select group was onstage for that, composed of dieticians and another food journalist whose name is a blur right now. But, from the aroma, it seemed a worthwhile recipe. You would have to e-mail me to get it as I do not have permission to publish it.

At the Convention Expo, I had the chance to attend two other cooking demonstrations. A company called Aramark has prepared food for the Olympic Games athletes since 1968, 14 Games so far. Its chef, Paul Carr, showed two recipes for the Beijing Olympics.

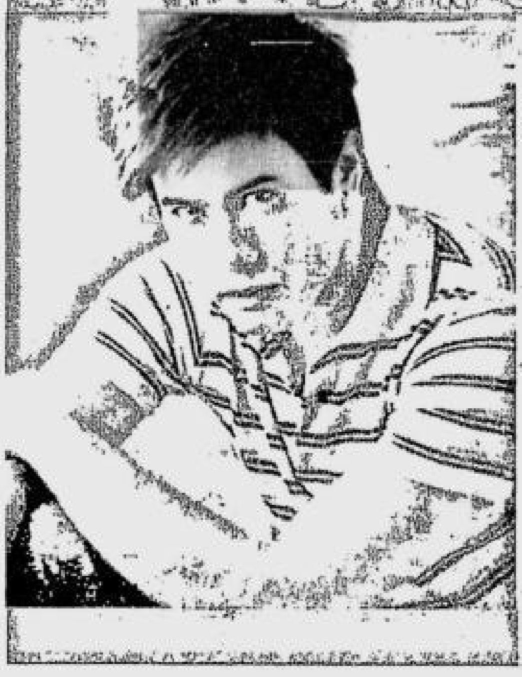
Chef Paul Luttmann from the Avera McKennan Hospital recently won in a culinary competition.

Mediterranean 'adobo'

Chef Carr made a pork *adobo* with orange-onion salsa. The moment he said

THERE'S/ C4

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS



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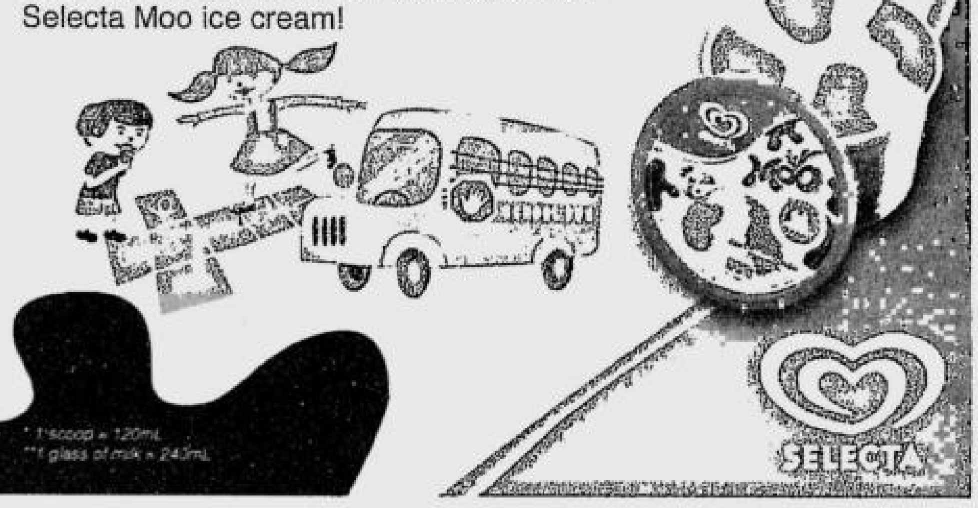

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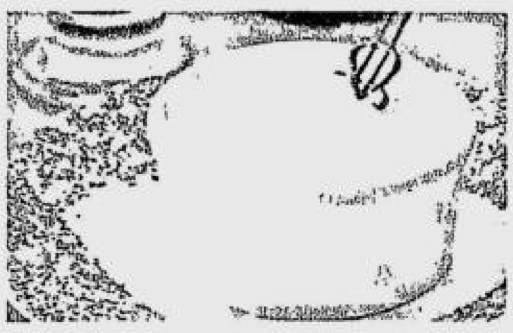
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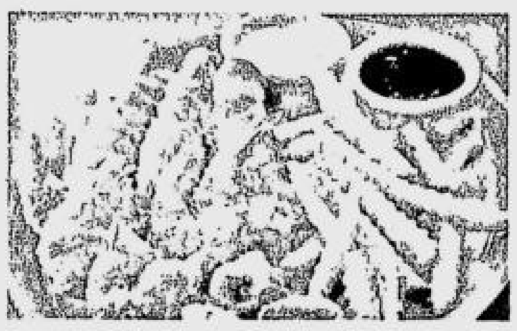
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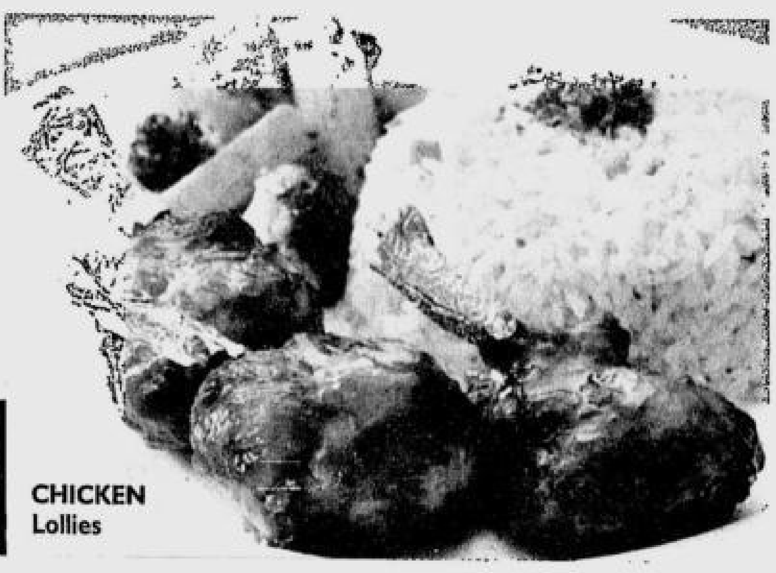

CHICKEN Lollies

The black secret of adventurous cooks

The premium dark lager for sophisticated drinkers now satisfies the palate of casual diners

Cerveza Negra
Cerveza Negra
HAM Beer Toast Trio

IT IS NOT TOTALLY UNCOMMON TO hear of people cooking with beer. From the kitchens of some of the most popular hotels and restaurants, to the homes of discerning food lovers, to backyard kitchens dedicated to unique Filipino pulutan fare, the frothy brew is a relatively common "secret" in many dishes.

What is not-so-commonly known is that of all the popular beer brands in the market today, dark beer Cerveza Negra is perhaps the best choice for both casual cooks and professional chefs.

That is because of its rich flavor, full body, characteristic dark color, pleasant aroma, and distinct hint of caramel.

A premium dark lager enjoyed by drinkers with more sophisticated tastes, it is expertly brewed by San Miguel Brewery Inc., makers of the iconic San Miguel Pale Pilsen and class-leading San Mig Light, Red Horse Beer, and Gold Eagle Beer. It is the Philippines' only dark beer.

For a unique culinary experience, the Cerveza Negra way, there is one place in town where you can sample gastronomic delights cooked with Cerveza Negra. San Mig Café is the full-service showcase restaurant of San Miguel Corporation's food and beverage products.

Located at the ground level of the San Miguel Properties Center on St. Francis Street (across the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel) in Mandaluyong City, San Mig is where chefs of the San Miguel Culinary Center come up with culinary delights using the company's products.

San Mig Café is presenting, for a limited time only, "Cerveza Negra's Distinct Delights," a festival of dishes prepared using the premium dark lager.

Ham Beer Toast Trio (P220) is cocktail fare with toast dipped in Cerveza Negra and topped with Purefoods Ham, Magnolia Cheezee, Cream Cheese and Purefoods Liver Sausage.

Seafood lovers can try the Cerveza Seafood Sampler (P270) consisting of squid, shrimps and fish coated with a special Cerveza Negra-enhanced batter and served with tartar and cocktail sauce.

The Chef's Daily Specials features Cerveza Negra, a special dish every day of the week.

On Mondays, it is Grilled Liempo Marinated in Cerveza Negra (P180), Monterey Pork Belly marinated in Cerveza Negra barbecue sauce, grilled and served with buttered vegetables and garlic rice.

The special Tuesday treat is Cerveza Chicken Lollies (P170), oven-baked chicken lollipops basted with Cerveza Negra barbecue sauce and served with buttered vegetables and rice pilaf.

Wednesdays mean Lamb and Beer Stew (P190). Slow-cooked and braised, the lamb cubes are served with steaming rice.

Thursday is kebab day at San Mig Café. Cerveza Pork Kebabs (P150) are skewered tender pieces of pork marinated and glazed with a special Cerveza Negra blended marinade and served with buttered vegetables and rice pilaf.

The traditional *asado* gets a makeover every Friday. Asado de Cerveza (P150) is a braised dish of chicken and pork in a rich sauce of Cerveza Negra and special condiments. For dessert, there is the Creamy Cerveza Panna Cotta.

San Mig Café is open 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Student chefs vie for P100,000 in cookoff

STUDENT CHEFS FROM LA Consolacion College (Team Lychees) and De la Salle University-College of Saint Benilde (Team Animo) will pit culinary skills in the "Reynolds, the Strongest Wins Cook Off" grand finals on Oct. 21, 2 p.m. at SM SouthMall.

The winning team will get P100,000 while the runner-up gets P50,000.

In the grand finals, La Consolacion's Team Lychees and St. Benilde's Team Animo will demonstrate their creativity and imagination in the kitchen by creating Christmas-inspired appetizers, a pork main course, and dessert.

STUDENT participants in the Reynolds Cook Off contest

Entries will be judged on the basis of taste, presentation, and creativity/inventiveness in the use of Reynolds Wrap.

Hosting the finals are television personalities Gabe Mercado and Menchu Antigua. Candy Pangilinan is the featured entertainer.

Since Reynolds Metals Co. was founded in Virginia, United States in 1920, it has created practical solutions for food preparation, including freezing, cooking, serving, and storing. It now offers its products in over 40 countries. In 2000, Reynolds became a part of Alcoa Inc., (www.alcoa.com), the world's leading producer and manager of primary aluminum, fabricated aluminum and alumina facilities.

Today, Reynolds Wrap Foil has the highest share of branded volume in the US and many key markets round the world. In the Philippines, Reynolds and Diamond Foil Wrap are the leading brands in food wrap and account for over 50 percent of the market in terms of value.

Stuffed pasta, *merienda* buffet

THE REGGIE ASPIRAS School of Culinary Arts is conducting the following classes:

Oct. 19: Home-made Stuffed Pasta (all new)—Pumpkin Soup with Chicken Spinach Ravioli, Salad of Beet Ravioli Stuffed with Goat Cheese, Ravioli with Four Cheeses in Rich Ragu, Duck Ravioli with Foie Gras Butter Cream Sauce, Mushroom Stuffed with Prawn Sauce

Oct. 20: My Merienda Buffet (special class)—Lumpiang Amoy, Pan de Sal Bar Grilled on the Spot with Quesong Puti and Adobo & Chocolate; Arroz Caldo sa Gata with Tokwa Tacos, Spaghettini of Pancit Malabon, Dinuguang Manok sa Gata with Bread & Butter Pudding; desserts: Ube Cheesecake, Guava Pie with Streusel and Home-made Quesong Puti Ice Cream

Oct. 22: Old-fashioned Cakes (all new)—Caramel Crunch, The Ultimate Canonigo, Chocolate Marshmallow, Ube Vanilla Cake, Creamy Pandan, White Chocolate Crema de Fruta

Oct. 24: Pumpkin—Best Ever Pumpkin Soup Served with Home-made Pumpkin Bread, Pasta on Pumpkin Shell, Super Moist Roast Pork with Sweetened Pumpkin, Sweet Chicken with Candied Pumpkin, Rice Oriental, Pumpkin Bread Pudding; side dishes. For complete schedule and inquiries, call 9289296 or 9273008.

A Taste of Thailand

Purefoods Culinary Center presents Taste of Thailand, a special cooking class featuring Tum Supawadee Lungtip & Al Purugganan of Jatujak Thai Restaurant to be held on Oct. 26, 1:30-4:30 p.m. at Legaspi cor. Eagle Sts., Bo. Ugong, Pasig.

Participants are sure to learn more about its unique recipes all for a fee of P900. A 20-percent discount awaits My Great Food Club member ID holders.

Call 6322000 or 6719876 loc. 2771 or 402. Visit www.mygreatfood.com.

Holiday cooking

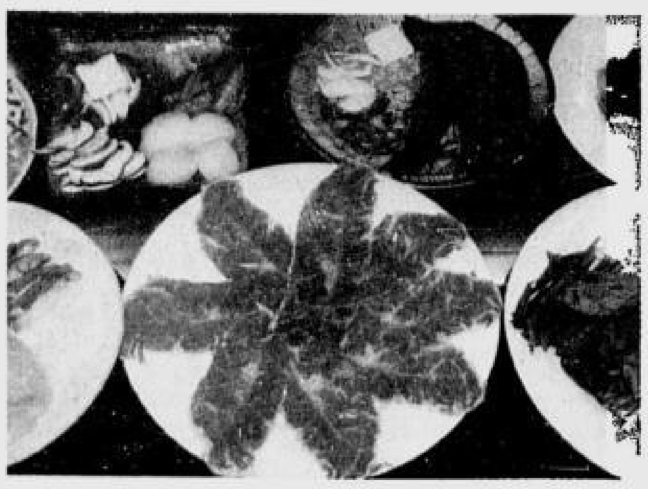
Dorothy's Cooking School offers new recipes for the holidays such as warm Caesar salad, porkchops al orange, chicken Alexander with roasted garlic mashed potato topping and other complimentary dishes on Oct. 24. Weekend cooking takes center stage on Oct. 27 featuring onion marmalade, pork pate from scratch, hearty lamb and bean stew.

For inquiries, call 7217735 and 4167968.

The school is owned by cookbook author Dorothy Ferreria and is located in New Manila, Quezon City.

Birthday treats

KIMPURA JAPANESE RESTAURANT celebrates its 37th year with its "Birthday Treats 2" promo for lunch and dinner. Diners get a 20-percent discount on its tempura a la carte dishes until Oct. 21, and on all teppanyaki a la carte dishes Oct. 22-28. Kimpura is located at the second level of Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City (tel. 8924456)) and Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan City (tel. 7218816). The restaurant is open daily for lunch and dinner.



TASTE OF HOME COOKING
Filipino delicacies at their finest is what the Barrio Fiesta (7060271 or 0917-8EWCITY) at 3/F, Cyber & Fashion Mall in Eastwood City, Libis offers. It offers dishes that are as close to home-cooking as you can get in a restaurant. The centerpiece of its menu is its renowned Kare-Kare, available for P265 (for four persons) and P165 (for two persons). It has puso ng saging, ox tripe, beef, ground peanut, peanut butter and eggplant as main ingredients with *bagoong alamang* on the side.

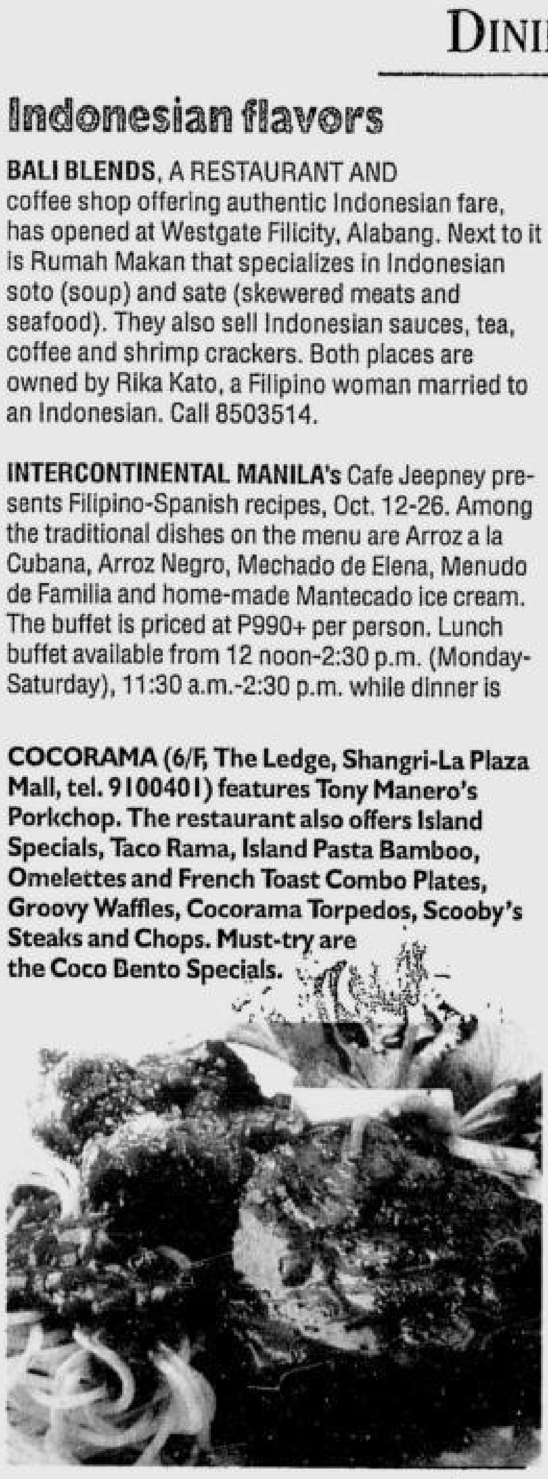
DINING OUT

Indonesian flavors

BALI BLENDS, A RESTAURANT AND coffee shop offering authentic Indonesian fare, has opened at Westgate Filicity, Alabang. Next to it is Rumah Makan that specializes in Indonesian soto (soup) and sate (skewered meats and seafood). They also sell Indonesian sauces, tea, coffee and shrimp crackers. Both places are owned by Rika Kato, a Filipino woman married to an Indonesian. Call 8503514.

INTERCONTINENTAL MANILA's Cafe Jeepney presents Filipino-Spanish recipes, Oct. 12-26. Among the traditional dishes on the menu are Arroz a la Cubana, Arroz Negro, Mechado de Elena, Menudo de Familia and home-made Mantecado ice cream. The buffet is priced at P990+ per person. Lunch buffet available from 12 noon-2:30 p.m. (Monday-Saturday), 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. while dinner is served, 6:30-10:30 p.m. (Monday-Saturday).

COCORAMA (6/F, The Ledge, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, tel. 9100401) features Tony Manero's Porkchop. The restaurant also offers Island Specials, Taco Rama, Island Pasta Bamboo, Omelettes and French Toast Combo Plates, Groovy Waffles, Cocorama Torpedos, Scooby's Steaks and Chops. Must-try are the Coco Bento Specials.



KITARO now offers Hot Samplers, light meals on the budget. Avail of these new double treats from 2-5 p.m. at any Kitaro branches: Kani salad/California maki for P89; Kani Salad/Tuna Sushi for P79; Yakisoba-Fried Tofu for P59; Yakisoba-Sakana Furai for P59; Yakisoba-Haru Maki for P79; Yakisoba/Taro Shitake for P99. Call 9111115 for delivery.

SPLENDIDO TAAL (Tagaytay Ridge Road, Laurel, Batangas, 0920-9471840) is celebrating Oktoberfest until Oct. 28. A special a la carte menu for lunch and dinner features dishes by JAKA's director for culinary services Eduardo Quimson and executive sous chef Tristan Bayani. They include the appetizer of Bismarck Mackerel and entrees like Hunter Schnitzels, Sausage Platter, Splendido Farmer's Meatloaf.

20 YEARS AS KING
Tapa King remains true to its tradition of serving quality *tapa* meals prepared from well-seasoned prime beef marinated in special herbs and spices. But now, in addition to best-selling Tapa King, Tapa Queen, Tapa Prince, Tapa Joe, and Tapa Ranchero, it also serves salads and *merienda* dishes like *pancit palabok*. Now celebrating its 20th year, the *tapa* restaurant has refurbished its interiors for a cozier ambiance and more comfortable seating (858-TAPA or 8272, 895-TAPA).

A PRINCESS® ENTERS THE LOCAL APPLIANCE MARKET

The Philippine appliance market may as well do a little curtsey as it welcomes Princess, a Dutch brand which has captured a large chunk of Europe's appliance retail markets with its wide array of unique, innovative, stylish, and affordably priced products. Established in the Netherlands in 1994, the brand is currently distributed in 75 countries and is now the world's largest supplier of small domestic appliances in chrome and stainless steel. With the tagline "What's a home without a Princess?" , the brand aims to infuse Filipino homes with a touch of royalty, providing families and individual home owners with household, kitchen and personal care gadgets that are not only manufactured and designed with the highest European quality standards but also serve their various needs and pander to their sense of style and aesthetic flair.

Princess' initial offering to the Philippines comprises four distinct product lines, namely ***Classic, Royal, Silver,*** and ***Red***. Altogether, these four lines present the widest assortment of small appliances ever carried under one brand in the local market. The product lines, which feature different materials and finish, have their own unique appeal, price points, and product mix to cater to various household needs, personal preferences, and income brackets. Its consumer-friendly prices, with items as affordable as a little over Php 1,000 a piece will give competing brands in the local market a run for their money considering the Princess has become synonymous with standards fit for royalty and has proudly held its ground for more than ten years against the best established European brands in the small appliance category.

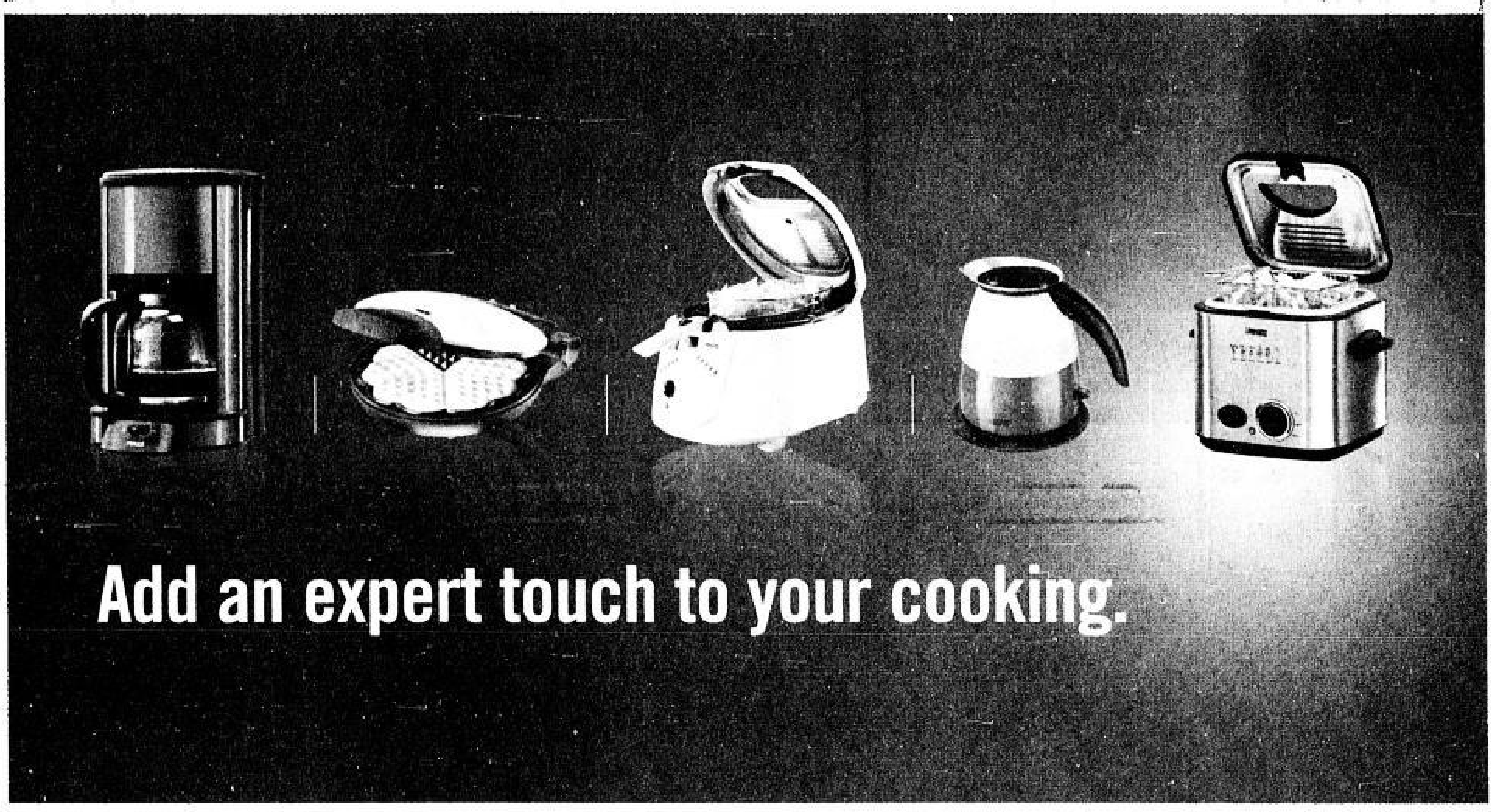
The Princess ***Classic line*** represents the largest collection of stainless steel household products in the world. Its sleek designs and polished looks make it a hit among households as well as professional settings like kitchen restaurants. Offered under this line are the Grand Café Bologna coffee maker which can brew as much as 15 cups of coffee; Health Grill, a multi-purpose non-stick contact grill with a groove system that helps eliminate fat; Egg Cooker and Mini Steamer; Grill Toaster; Table Chef, a non-stick cooking plate with an adjustable thermostat; Black Fondue Wok with a sauce pan, grill, five-pan gourmet, and hotplate; and the Family Castel Deep Fryer which can hold 3 litres of oil, among others.

The rest of the product lines are made from durable thermoplastic finish. The ***Royal line*** products sporting a stately white shiny finish are like sparkling pearls that lend a clean and timeless look in every kitchen. Included in this line are the ten-speed Turbo Blender; Deep Fryer Easy; Nice Price Sandwich Maker; and Compact Coffee Maker.

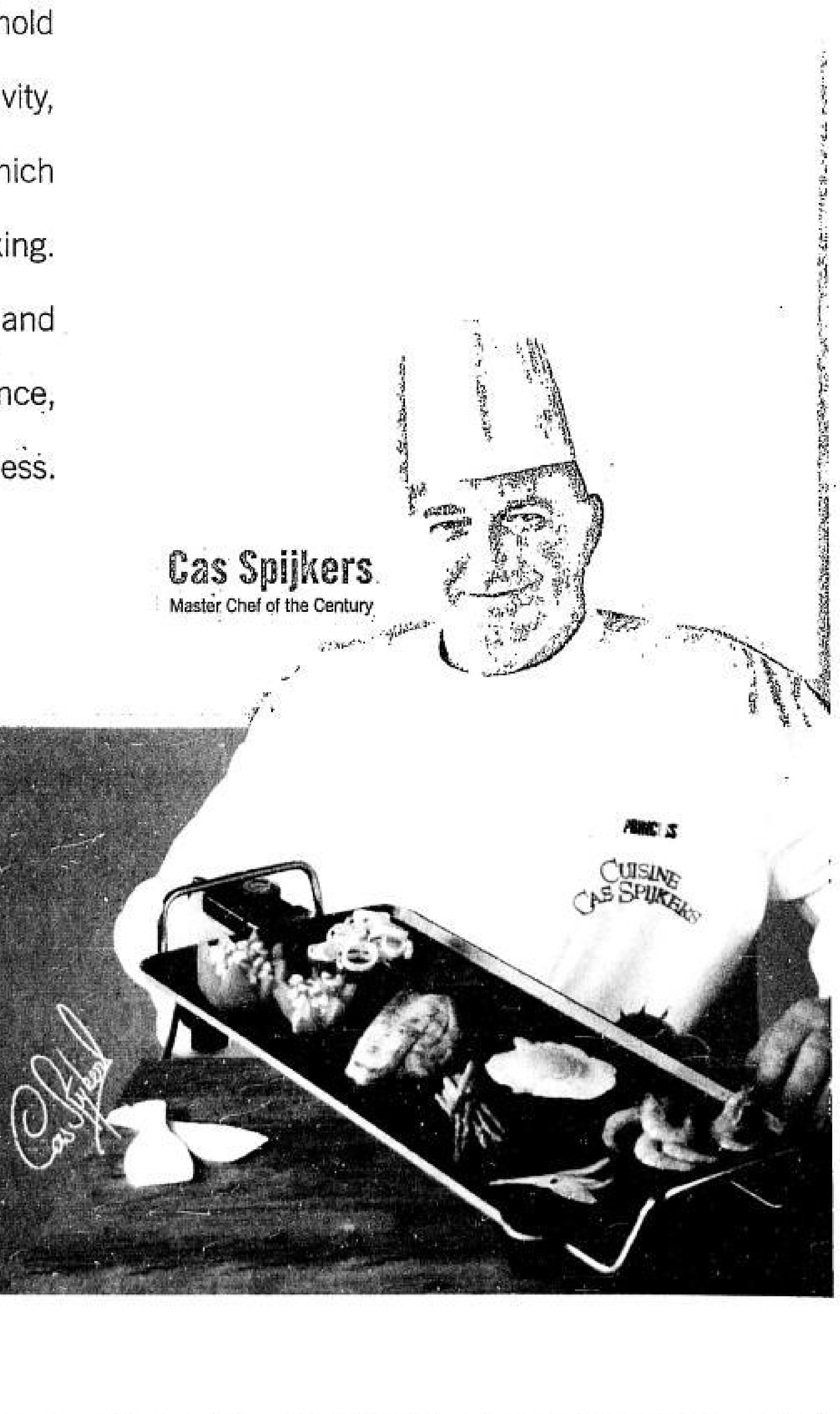
The ***Silver line*** is a unique collection of thermoplastic products with a luxurious silver finish. Innovative, functional, and futuristic-looking, this range of distinguished products gives the kitchen a very trendy and modern look. The line carries a Fresh Juicer; Grand Café Siena, another Coffee Maker which makes as much as 15 cups of coffee; and a five-speed Turbo Mixer which is an indispensable baking tool.

Inspired by Retro fashion, the ***Red line*** is a range of stylish and attractive vintage-looking appliances. Sporting a ruby red hue, the stunning collection adds pizzazz and glamour to the kitchen. The line includes a Red Compact Blender, Red Super Juicer, Red Water Kettle, Red Café Torino Coffee Maker, and Red Toaster Borgini among others.

SM – the brand's exclusive retail partner welcomes Princess appliances into the country with a four-day consumer launch beginning October 18, 2007. The launch features a selling exhibit at SM Makati's activity area at the ground floor which is located between the department store and the supermarket. Open during mall hours until October 21, the exhibit will showcase Princess' entire range of products and offer special discounts and gifts on every single receipt purchase. Highlighting the launch's opening day is the brand's ambassador and Master Chef, Cas Spijkers who is flying in all the way from the Netherlands to introduce Princess to Filipino consumers. Witness this international chef weave his culinary magic and share easy-to-do recipes using the latest kitchen appliances from Princess at the opening show on October 18, 2007, Thursday from 5pm to 8pm. Savor these treats prepared right before your very eyes and also get a chance to win exciting raffle prizes. Seating at the opening show is on a first-come-first-serve basis. The selling exhibit which features cooking and product demonstrations is open to everyone during mall hours from October 19 – October 21.



An amazing collection of kitchen and household appliances crafted with a great deal of creativity, inventiveness and inspiration. Products with which consumers and professionals alike enjoy working. Princess' own inventions, which are born and carefully nurtured in its passion for excellence, are a global success with guaranteed uniqueness. The personal touch of a true Princess.



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THE CONSUMER

Don't make your cell phone your confidante

> Old mobiles yielded not just proofs of adultery but also sensitive financial information

By Linda B. Bolido

WITH CELLULAR OR MOBILE phones becoming almost like miniature computers with memory cards and all, you will have to take extra care when discarding an old one.

An Associated Press article carried by MSN Money reports how old cell phones are spilling very important secrets.

The story cautions cell-phone owners not to share their very important and sensitive secrets with their mobiles or they may end up in the wrong hands.

According to the story, second-hand phones being sold on eBay were found to still contain such sensitive information as credit-card numbers, banking passwords, business secrets and even evidence of affairs.

This after previous owners deleted personal information they entered in their phones.

A married man's exchanges with his girlfriend were retrieved by the buyer of his old phone.

And yet, according to the AP story, the seller "followed the directions in his phone's manual to erase all his information, including lurid exchanges with his lover."

Your life story

The story added, "Selling your old phone... can be like handing over your diaries. All sorts of sensitive information piles up inside our cell phones, and deleting it may be more difficult than you think."

When a person reset a phone, the AP story said, the machine indicated that sensitive information had been erased. But any sense of security the owner might feel would be false.

Just as computer-savvy people could retrieve deleted items from a hard drive, information in an old cell phone "can be resurrected using specialized yet inexpensive software found on the Internet," the AP story said.

A company that bought 10 phones on eBay to test phone-security tools it sells for businesses collected "a stack of printouts 8-ft high," the story said.

The company's software experts resurrected information on nearly all the used phones.

The information reportedly included racy exchanges between guarded lovers, a company's plans to diversify, bank accounts and passwords, details of prescriptions and receipts for one worker's utility payments.

Longer than one book

The recovered information was equal to 27,000 pages.

Many of the phones tested, according to AP, "were owned personally by the sellers but crammed with sensitive corporate information, underscoring the blurring of work and home."

With new phone models offering attractive features being launched almost every month, more and more people change mobiles regularly.

In the United States, AP said consumers upgraded their cell phones, on average, about every 18 months.

Many people pass on their old phones to family members or friends, but selling a used phone outside that circle is becoming increasingly popular.

Of course, in the Philippines, it is not just the buyer of an old phone that people have to worry about.

Considering the high rate of mobile phone theft, the risk of sensitive information getting to the wrong hands is a really serious risk.

So the moral of the story is do not use the mobile phone as the repository of sensitive information that you do not want other people to have access to.

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mascardo and Yague Sts., Makati City; or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph.

Three chefs at a dieticians' convention

From page C1

adobo I was all eyes and ears because the mixture might be just like ours.

True enough, his *adobo* marinade had vinegar, oil, minced garlic, cracked black pepper, salt and dried oregano. He did not braise the meat but roasted it on a rack over a shallow pan.

Afterwards he sliced the pork, placed it on steamed rice and put the orange salsa on top. Only 188 calories without the rice. Wow! I was getting into the groove of counting calories by that time.

I did tell the chef about our *adobo* and how the flavor mix was similar. He told me his version was Mediterranean. Pretty soon *adobo* will reach areas as far as the Midwest United States (more on that in another column).

Chef Luttmann, on the other hand, demonstrated the recipe that won him first place in a competition of food services. Knowing he works out of a hospital kitchen makes his winning more remarkable. He has to follow nutritional guidelines while making the food taste good or, at least, normal.

His Chicken Meritage with Jasmine Rice Pilaf had so many procedures it was a wonder that he finished the recipe within the required time.

He had to do the rice; cook the chicken breast and the wing joint; make a malbec wine and chicken jus as well as a red-onion balsamic reduction; do his vegetables of tomato relish and a spinach and semillion wine sauté; and prepare his garnish of spinach, red onion, heirloom tomatoes, crème fraiche and micro greens. Whew!

There were four wines on the table. Luttmann explained that the term "meritage" was from a combination of wines, the blend similar to a Bordeaux. He used all those in his recipe so, because he worked in a hospital, it was like saying wine was good for you. Cheers, then.

Before his demo, I approached him and the dietician with him to talk about food competitions back home and the importance of knowing how to write recipes.

While he was doing his dish, he kept emphasizing the necessity of writing a recipe correctly during contests. Wish that our competitors were there to hear that.

E-mail the author at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com

Good Wine Good Food with Carlo Rossi CALIFORNIA RED

Filipino foods are rich in condiments and sauces. This explains why rice is important in the meals, and why it is difficult to pair wines with Filipino foods. But Carlo Rossi California Red's smooth feel and light and fruity taste, allow the palate to sense the distinct features of Filipino Cuisine.

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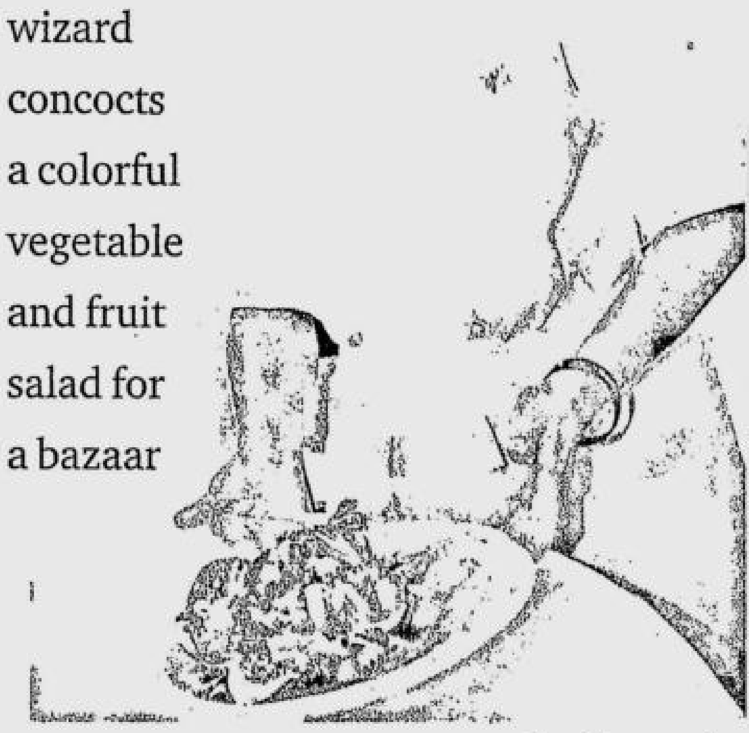
CHEF Jessie Sincioco

Le Souffle's cooking wizard concocts a colorful vegetable and fruit salad for a bazaar



Jessie is tickled pink

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Romy Homillada

HAUTE CUISINE chef Jessie Sincioco rarely does anything half-heartedly.

So, when asked to anchor the food section of the Tickled Pink benefit bazaar for the I Can Serve Foundation, the culinary genius behind the Le Souffle chain not only agreed to offer two of her best-selling healthy concoctions but even came up with a new dish.

Bazaar guests will taste for the first time Sincioco's Tickled Pink Salad a la Kara.

Pink, of course, comes from the title of the bazaar, now on its second year. Using beetroot, Sincioco stained the various ingredients with a dark pink tinge to come up with a fuchsia concoction.

Kara is Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala, founder and moving spirit of I Can Serve, an advocacy and assistance group for breast cancer.

Sincioco is setting up what amounts to a haute cuisine *turo-turo*. Bazaar customers can choose from among Vegetable Risotto that uses wild rice, Grilled Vegetable Fusilli Pasta al Pesto and, the piece de resistance, the Pink Salad.

At the bazaar, the salad will consist solely of vegetables, fruits and nuts but when it becomes a regular item on the Le Souffle menu diners can opt to have grilled prawns or chicken with it.

Alikpala says Sincioco's haute cuisine is just one of the things that make the Pink bazaar distinctive.

She and Ria Romero, fund raising coordinator, assure prospective visitors that items available will be rare and distinctive, their participants not the usual vendors you find in all other bazaars.

Tickled Pink will be held 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Oct. 19-20, The Rockwell Tent, Makati City.

Tickled Pink Salad a la Kara

50 g beet root
30 g heart of palm
20 g turnip (singkamas)
20 g green asparagus spears
20 g artichoke heart
10 g celery stalk
20 g green apple
20 g red apple
20 g fresh orange segment
15 g roasted walnuts
3 g fresh mint leaves
60 g assorted lettuce

Yoghurt-Mint-Orange Dressing:

60 g natural yoghurt
2 g mint leaves, chopped
Juice of one whole fresh orange
Salt and pepper to taste

Boil beet root until soft and cooked. Set aside to cool. Peel and cut into strips.

On a separate pot, boil heart of palm until cooked. Set aside to cool. Cut into strips.

Peel and cut turnips into strips.

Steam asparagus until cooked. Set aside to cool. Cut into slices that would match the size of the strips above.

Cut and slice artichoke heart, celery stalk, red and green apple and orange segment.

Peel and coarsely chop roasted walnuts.

Cut mint leaves into fine strips.

In a bowl, mix all the above ingredients.

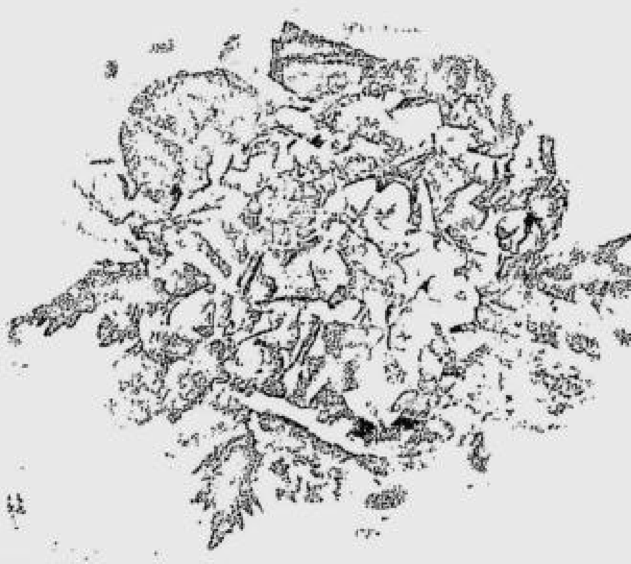
Add the yoghurt-mint-orange dressing

Season to taste. Chill.

Serve cold salad on a bed of assorted lettuce.

Yield: 2 portions

Note: You can add grilled chicken, prawns or any seafood of your choice.



TICKLED Pink Salad a la Kara

Roll out the barrels

By Adrian Carlo Velasco
Contributor

FILIPINOS ARE CERTIFIED BEER lovers. And when the month of October comes, they flock to Oktoberfest parties to indulge in food and booze. We're no strangers to this German tradition of merrymaking. As early as the late 1920s, German expatriates were already celebrating the famous beer fest in the Philippines.

"We've discovered photos from those decades, showing the old Oktoberfest celebrations in Manila. The tradition was only revived in the 1950s. Since then, the world's largest fair was celebrated here annually," says German Club-Manila director Michael Scheile.

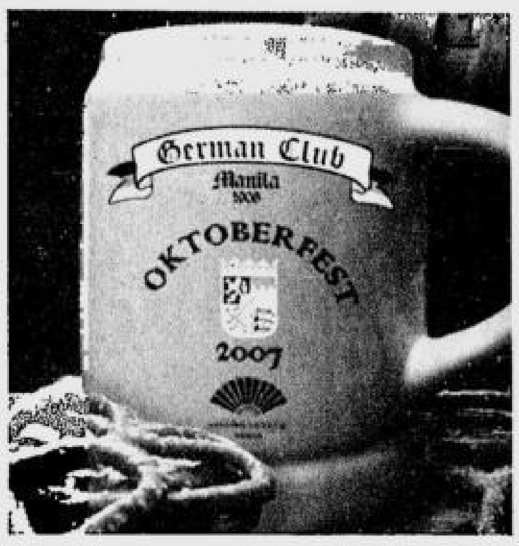
Tradition

Oktoberfest is a 16-day tradition commemorated in Munich, Bavaria, Germany during late September and early October with over six million people attending every year. The festival begins with the mayor of Munich tapping a keg of beer as he proclaims "O'zapft is!" which means "It's tapped!" in Bavarian. A slightly darker Oktoberfest beer is especially concocted for the occasion, with its first mass (a one-liter container) served to the Bavarian prime minister.

Bring it back

In the last six years, Mandarin Oriental, Manila and the German Club have brought the authentic German fair to the country with its annual Oktoberfest shindig.

The most authentic Oktoberfest to hit the Philippines is happening Oct. 19-21 at Mandarin Hotel Manila



"Last year, a strong typhoon struck Metro Manila days before the event. Still, over 2,000 guests attended the Oktoberfest held on Roxas Boulevard, Manila. We set up small tents with booths along a grass land. Coincidentally, it became the most authentic festival in the Philippines. Now, we're bringing it back to the NBC Tent, which has more space, facilities, and accessibility," says German Club-Manila president Torsten Franz.

This year's three-day celebration features the world-famous "oompapa" German folk music of the Bavarian Sound Express—a 12-piece brass band flown in directly from Munich.

On Oct. 19-20, from 7 p.m. onwards, the Mandarin Oriental will serve free-flowing beer and a buffet of mouth-watering German fare like boiled sausages, suckling pig in dark beer sauce, and Quark cheese cream cake.

The Oktoberfest menu, prepared by executive chef Thomas Wagner, also includes appetizers, salads, desserts, and main courses like Sauerbraten (braised beef in sweet and sour sauce), Liberkaas (meatloaf on creamed spinach), and Spit Haendl (herb-marinated roast chicken).

Prizes await the winners of beer-drinking contests for men and yodeling competitions for women. Business class tickets to Europe, courtesy of Swiss International Airlines and Lufthansa German Airlines, and overnight accommodations at Mandarin Oriental will also be given to lucky raffle winners.

On Oct. 21, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., families can enjoy the carnival-themed day with a "freuhschoppen" brunch prepared by Chef Thomas. Balloon-making clowns, caricature artists, and face painters will entertain the kids and the young-at-heart, while Puma football games will be organized to cater to sports enthusiasts.

Oktoberfest tickets for Oct. 19-20 are priced at P2,000 per night, while Oct. 21 tickets are at P800. Children under 12 years are free of charge on the third day.

Call the Mandarin Oriental Manila at 7508888 local 2635 or 2401.

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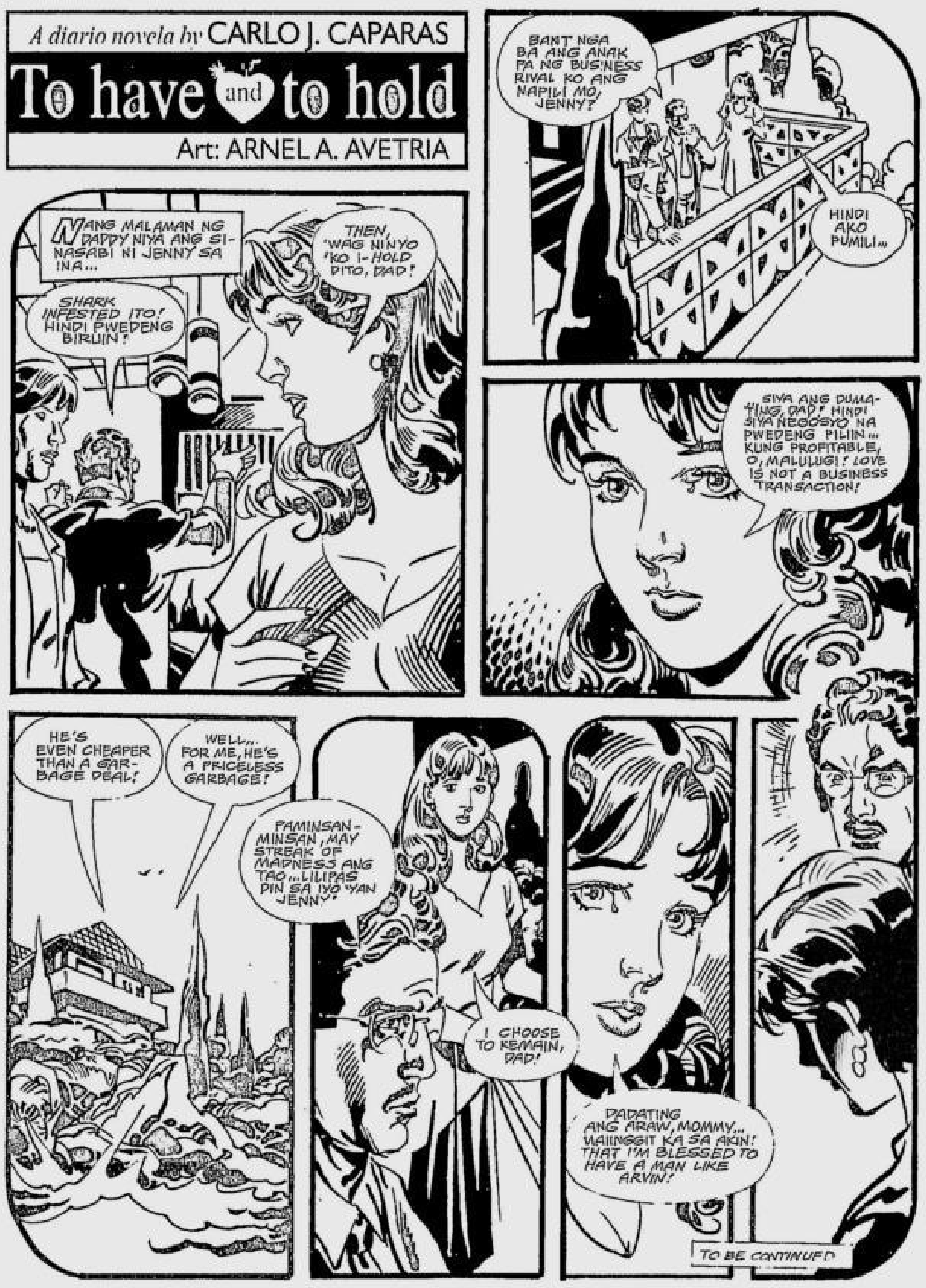
A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

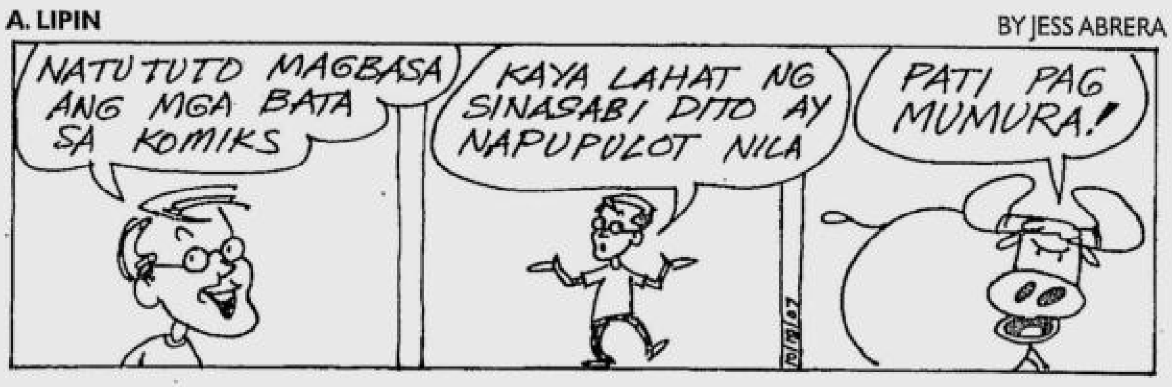
To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


NANG MALAMAN NG DADDY NIYA ANG SINASABI NI JENNY SA INA...
SHARK INFESTED ITO! HINDI PWEDENG BIRUIN!
THEN, 'WAG NINYO 'KO I-HOLD DITO, DAD!
BAKIT NGA BA ANG ANAK PA NG BUSINESS RIVAL KO ANG NAPILI MO, JENNY?
HINDI AKO PUMILI...
SIYA ANG DUMATING, DAD! HINDI SIYA NEGOSYO NA PWEDENG PILIIN... KUNG PROFITABLE, O, MALULUGI! LOVE IS NOT A BUSINESS TRANSACTION!
HE'S EVEN CHEAPER THAN A GARBAGE DEAL!
WELL... FOR ME, HE'S A PRICELESS GARBAGE!
PAMINSAN-MINSAN, MAY STREAK OF MADNESS ANG TAO... LILIPAS DIN SA IYO 'YAN JENNY!
I CHOOSE TO REMAIN, DAD!
DADATING ANG ARAW, MOMMY... MAIINGGIT KA SA AKIN! THAT I'M BLESSED TO HAVE A MAN LIKE ARVIN!
TO BE CONTINUED

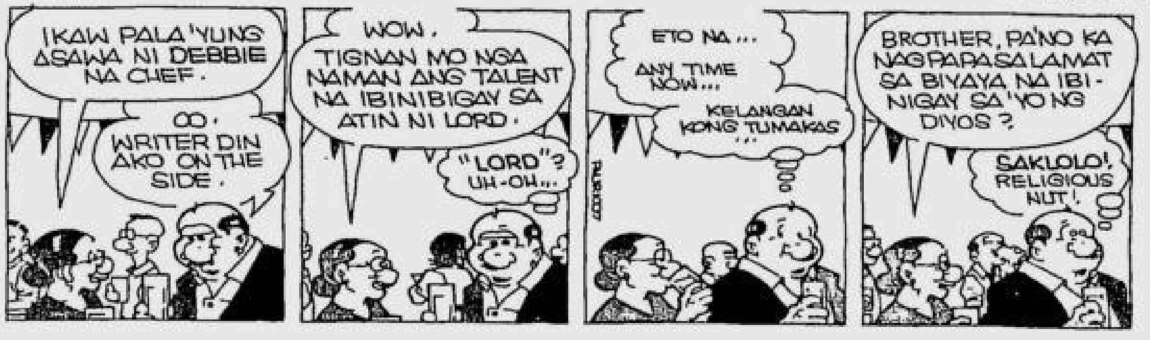
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


NATUTUTO MAGBASA ANG MGA BATA SA KOMIKS
KAYA LAHAT NG SINASABI DITO AY NAPUPULOT NILA
PATI PAG MUMURA!
10/18/07

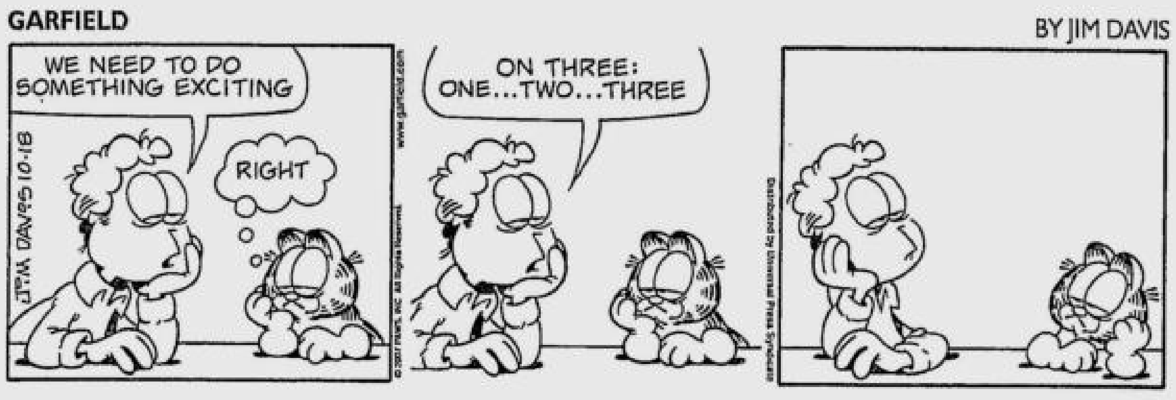
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


IKAW PALA 'YUNG ASAWA NI DEBBIE NA CHEF.
OO. WRITER DIN AKO ON THE SIDE.
WOW. TIGNAN MO NGA NAMAN ANG TALENT NA IBINIBIGAY SA ATIN NI LORD.
"LORD"? UH-OH...
ETO NA... ANY TIME NOW...
KELANGAN KONG TUMAKAS
BROTHER, PA'NO KA NAGPAPASALAMAT SA BIYAYA NA IBINIGAY SA 'YO NG DIYOS?
SAKLOLO! RELIGIOUS NUT!

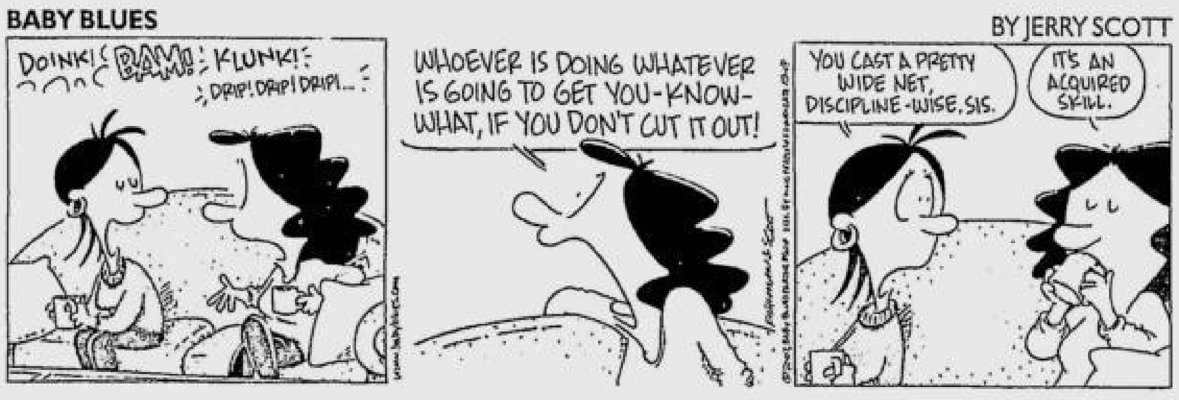
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING EXCITING
RIGHT
JIM DAVIS 10-18
www.garfield.com
ON THREE: ONE...TWO...THREE
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

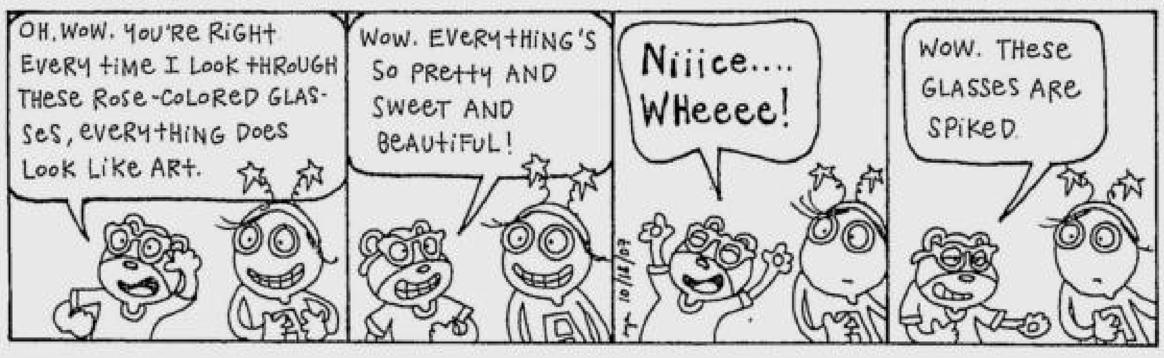
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


DOINK! BAM! KLUNK! DRIP! DRIP! DRIP!...
WHOEVER IS DOING WHATEVER IS GOING TO GET YOU-KNOW-WHAT, IF YOU DON'T CUT IT OUT!
YOU CAST A PRETTY WIDE NET, DISCIPLINE-WISE, SIS.
IT'S AN ACQUIRED SKILL.

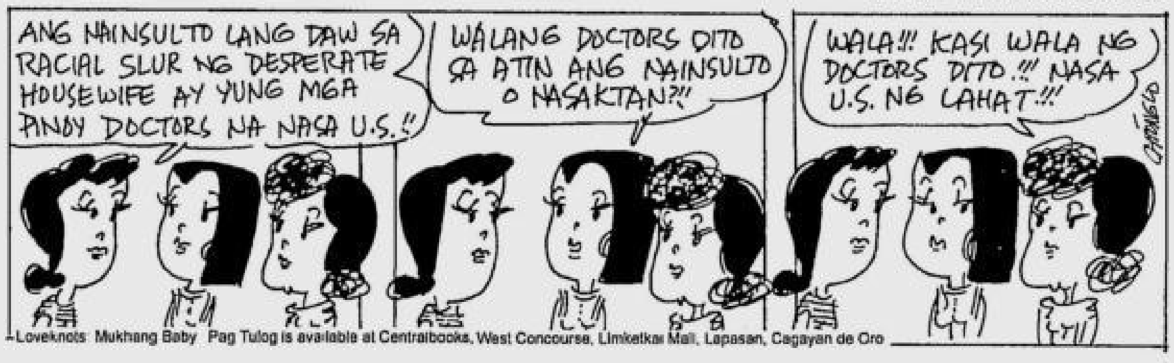
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


OH. WOW. YOU'RE RIGHT. EVERY TIME I LOOK THROUGH THESE ROSE-COLORED GLASSES, EVERYTHING DOES LOOK LIKE ART.
WOW. EVERYTHING'S SO PRETTY AND SWEET AND BEAUTIFUL!
Niiice.... WHeeee!
10/18/07
WOW. THESE GLASSES ARE SPIKED.

LOVEKNOTS

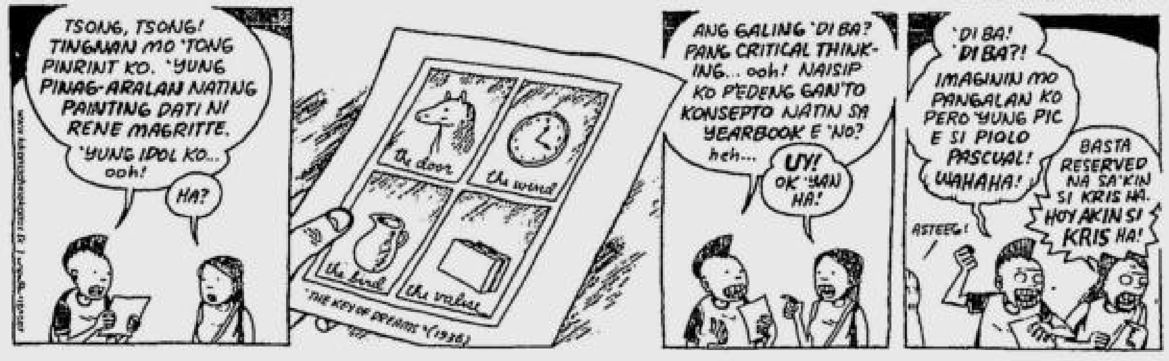
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG NAINSULTO LANG DAW SA RACIAL SLUR NG DESPERATE HOUSEWIFE AY YUNG MGA PINOY DOCTORS NA NASA U.S.!!
WALANG DOCTORS DITO SA ATIN ANG NAINSULTO O NASAKTAN?!!
WALA!!! KASI WALA NG DOCTORS DITO!!! NASA U.S. NG LAHAT!!!
CHIONGLO

Loveknots: Mukhang Baby Pag Tulog is available at Centralbooks, West Concourse, Limketkai Mall, Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro

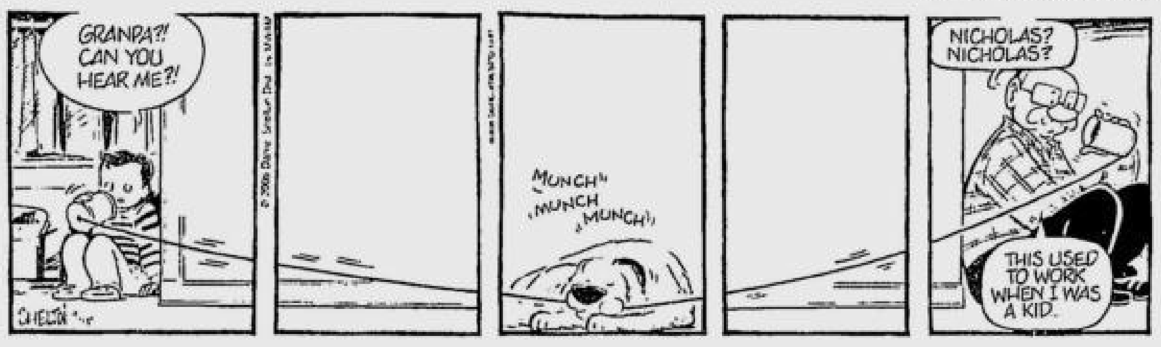
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TSONG, TSONG! TINGNAN MO 'TONG PINRINT KO. 'YUNG PINAG-ARALAN NATING PAINTING DATI NI RENE MAGRITTE. 'YUNG IDOL KO... ooh!
HA?
the door
the wind
the bird
the valise
"THE KEY OF DREAMS" (1936)
ANG GALING 'DI BA? PANG CRITICAL THINKING... ooh! NAISIP KO PEDENG GAN'TO KONSEPTO NATIN SA YEARBOOK E 'NO? heh...
UY! OK 'YAN HA!
'DI BA! 'DI BA?!
IMAGININ MO PANGALAN KO PERO 'YUNG PIC E SI PIOLO PASCUAL! WAHAHA!
BASTA RESERVED NA SA'KIN SI KRIS HA. HOY AKIN SI KRIS HA!
ASTEEG!

BEN

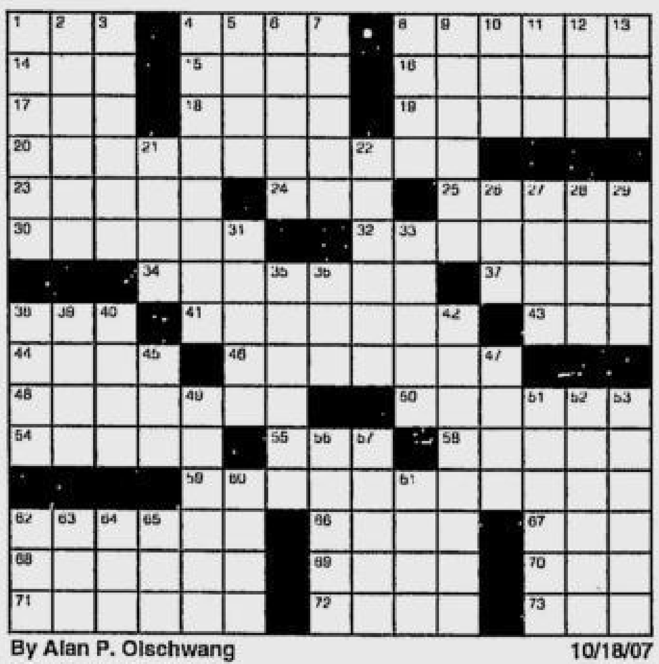
BY DANIEL SHELTON


GRANPA?! CAN YOU HEAR ME?!
MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH
NICHOLAS? NICHOLAS?
THIS USED TO WORK WHEN I WAS A KID.
SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 H. Rider Haggard novel
4 File markers
8 Regard with pleasure
14 Very heavy weight
15 Portent
16 Hardy's pal
17 Reel companion
18 Spy Hari
19 Ants
20 Start of Ogden Nash quip
23 Word before up or drop
24 Island garland
25 Part 2 of quip
30 Get in shape
32 Men's fashion accessory
34 Vilified
37 Submerged
38 6th sense
41 Part 3 of quip
43 Greek letters
44 Chess castle
46 Word inventors
48 Editing device
50 Longhaired hunting dog
54 Part 4 of quip
55 Period of many years
58 Chutzpah
59 End of quip
62 Rome-sacker of 455
66 Needle case
67 Card game
68 Large lizard
69 Scottish Gaelic
70 Feet/second connector
71 Swindler
72 Clairvoyant
73 Bar Harbor summer hrs.

DOWN
1 By the book
2 Bad luck
3 Football play
4 Little folklore hero
5 Asian nanny
6 Sort of nut
7 Kind of drum
8 Nautical direction
9 Harm
10 Tight-lipped
11 Anger
12 AARP part
13 South African golfer Ernie
21 Puts on years
22 Sink one's teeth into
26 Certain colas
27 Distinctive flair
28 Indigenous people of Japan
29 Toll rds.
31 Dove's desire
33 French notions
35 Loved deeply
36 Troy, NY, sch.
38 Formerly, formerly
39 2nd-yr. student
40 Negri of the silents
42 More faddish
45 Relatives
47 Flight unit
49 Beachside bathhouse
51 Theatrical players
52 Tied
53 Smart comeback
56 Curved moldings
57 __ Dame
60 Greenspan or Sillitoe
61 Yorkshire river
62 Damone or Morrow
63 In the past
64 Church sister
65 Lake maker



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
10/18/07

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

B	L	A	S	T	■	P	E	A	R	■	H	E	L	M
R	A	D	A	R	■	E	M	M	A	■	E	L	I	E
O	M	A	N	I	■	R	O	A	R	■	D	I	N	S
■	■	■	C	O	O	K	T	H	E	B	O	O	K	S
N	E	S	T	■	U	S	E	S	■	A	N	T	S	Y
O	X	C	A	R	T	■	■	■	P	S	I	■	■	■
R	I	O	■	A	C	A	D	I	A	■	S	A	N	A
S	T	U	F	F	A	B	A	L	L	O	T	B	O	X
E	S	T	A	■	S	A	M	O	A	N	■	A	B	E
■	■	■	C	U	T	■	■	■	V	E	S	S	E	L
B	R	A	T	S	■	A	A	R	E	■	E	E	L	S
E	A	T	O	N	E	S	W	O	R	D	S	■	■	■
E	T	A	T	■	S	T	A	B	■	U	T	I	L	E
P	E	R	U	■	S	I	R	E	■	D	E	N	I	S
S	L	I	M	■	O	R	E	S	■	S	T	O	V	E

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10/18/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: Many of you play important roles in the lives of others. You speak your mind. You have high ideals, and furthermore, you have the ability to inspire people. You are committed to whatever cause you embrace. You're interested in many things, and you're highly playful and social. The year ahead is full of new, fresh beginnings. It's an entirely new cycle for you.

Birthdate of: Pierre Elliott Trudeau, statesman/politician; Wynton Marsalis, musician; Chuck Berry, rocker.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Bosses, parents and authority figures in your life might surprise you today. This could be pleasant—or not. (However, I think it will be pleasant, or at least a bit shocking.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're super restless today! You want adventure and excitement. Ironically, that's exactly what you might get. People from different cultures and different lands are one possible source for this.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Surprise gifts and goodies can come your way today. Keep your pockets open! If others want to be generous to you, accept gratefully.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Something might throw you for a loop today, probably in a conversation with partners or close friends. Someone close to you is going to do something that surprises you. Let's hope you like it!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Interruptions at work are highly likely today. Computer crashes, power outages, fire drills, electronic breakdowns or confusion might dog your steps. New co-workers could be a surprise as well.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): A flirtation from a surprising source is possible today. But what a lift it might be! New love, romance, playful activities with children and sports are full of all possibilities.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Unexpected company might drop by where you live today. Alternatively, expected company might not show up. Something surprising takes place within your family scene.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're full of bright, original ideas today. These could be triggered by meeting someone new and unusual. It's an interesting day.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Watch your money and guard your possessions today. It's easy to lose something. On the other hand, you might find something. Act quickly, because your window of opportunity will be brief.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Today the Moon is in your sign, making a pleasant aspect to unpredictable Uranus. This could bring surprising events or people your way, but your routine will be interrupted!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Quite likely, you'll be surprised by some event today. Or perhaps, you'll have an opportunity to learn something unusual—political, religious or philosophical.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): A friend or acquaintance might do something a bit bizarre today. Or you might meet someone who is a real character. Either way, it's interesting.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

						5		
	7	6			5		8	
	9			8		4		2
					7		6	
		3				1		
	8		5					
1		9		6			4	
	5		3			8	9	
		2						

Difficulty Level ★★★
10/18

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

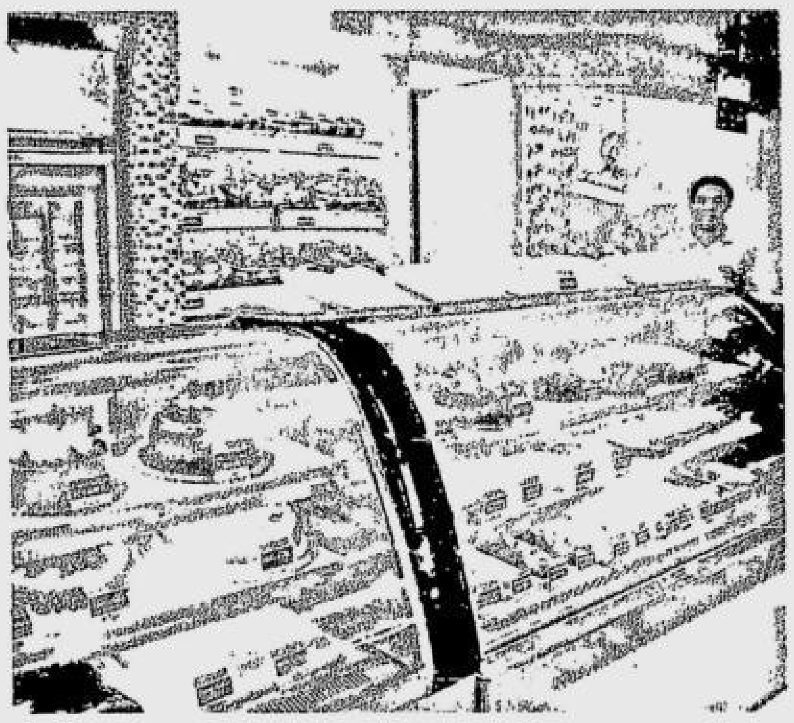
Answer to previous puzzle

7	1	2	3	9	4	6	8	5
3	4	8	2	6	5	1	7	9
9	5	6	8	7	1	3	2	4
4	6	7	9	2	8	5	3	1
1	8	9	4	5	3	2	6	7
2	3	5	7	1	6	9	4	8
8	7	1	6	3	9	4	5	2
6	9	4	5	8	2	7	1	3
5	2	3	1	4	7	8	9	6

Difficulty Level ★★★

NEW LOOK: brighter, warmer and more conducive to family dining and *barkada* get-together

Goldilocks adopts a fresh look to appeal to a new Pinoy generation



DISPLAY of premium baked goodies

Still setting the trend after 41 years

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Rudy Esperas

GOLDILOCKS BAKESHOP IS REinventing itself.

While its restaurant and bakeshop will remain side by side, a new layout has been adopted for its outlet at the ground floor of SM Megamall A. The new design is expected to shorten the queues and make it more convenient for people to place their orders.

"In the fastfood business, you have to change and improve your look every so often," says Pinky Yee, Goldilocks marketing director. "We need to be updated for our customers."

Melon and citrus hues have been added to the bakeshop's signature colors of yellow and blue to draw a younger market.

A semi-open kitchen with glass partitions allows guests to see how their food is prepared. Unlike before when the dishes were presented *turo-turo*-style, this time the food is displayed on a U-shaped counter that is divided into different "stations."

Shorter queues

Customers in the self-service restaurant can proceed directly to the station of their choice and get the food they want instead of standing in line with everybody else, thus shortening waiting time.

At the fresh *lumpia* station, the food crew prepares fresh *ubod* with minced pork and vegetables before wrapping it in a delicate egg-flour wrapper then garnishing with crushed peanuts, spring onions and dark sweet sauce.

The *pancit* station serves *palabok*, *sotanghon* and *pancit* Malabon.

The soup station carries beef *nilaga*, *bangus* belly *sinigang* and pork *sinigang*. Newest additions are *batchoy* and *siomai mami*.

At the grillery or fried area, diners can get Goldilocks' famous pork and chicken barbecue, *lumpiang* shanghai, fried chicken and breaded pork chop.

The pasta station serves spaghetti, lasagna and baked macaroni.

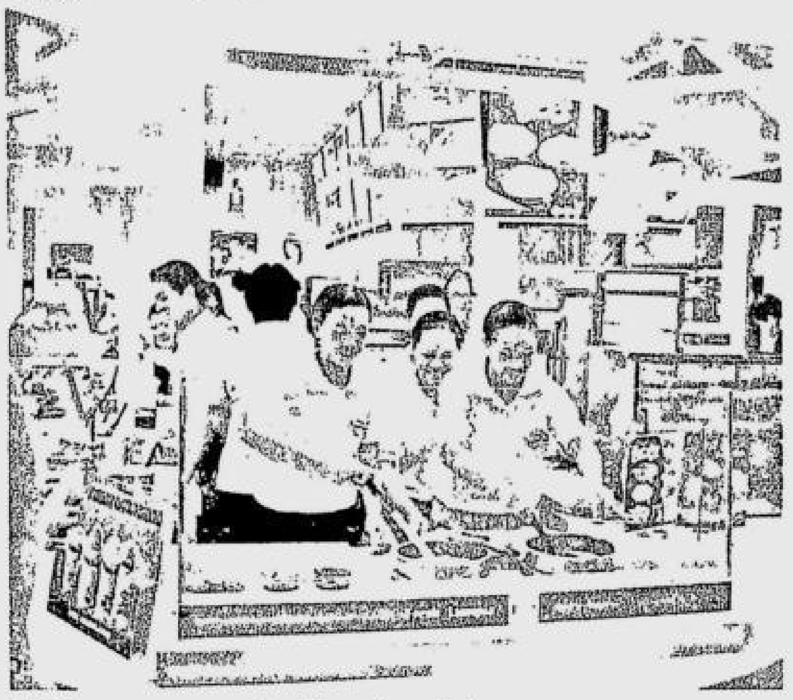
The crew behind the counter takes orders and puts them on trays that they deposit at the counter.

"You don't have to drag your tray all the way to the cashier while clutching your bag and packages," Yee says.

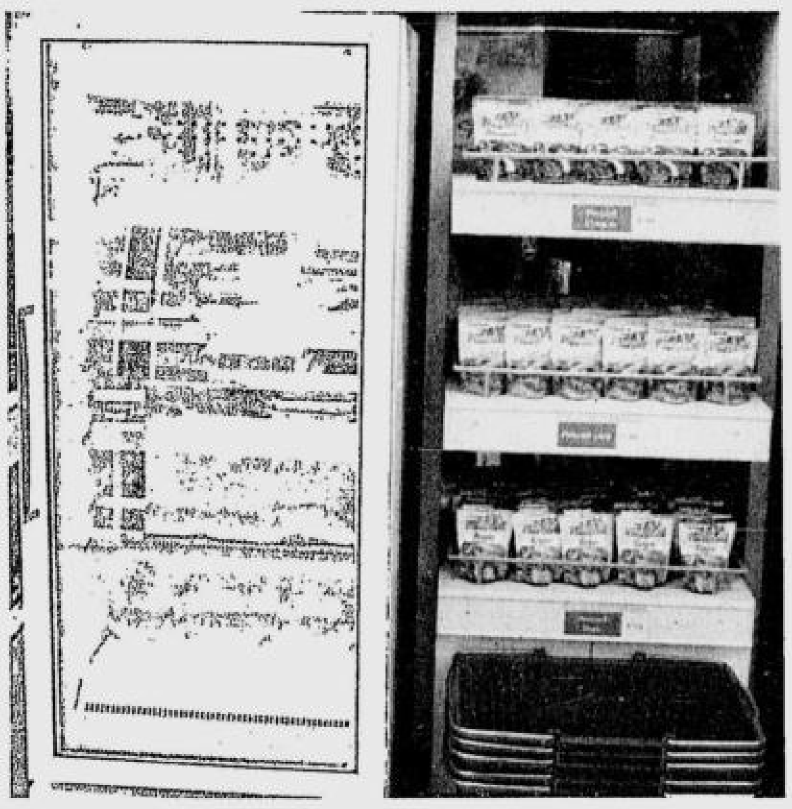
The system is expected to be faster, easier and more convenient.

Two-year project

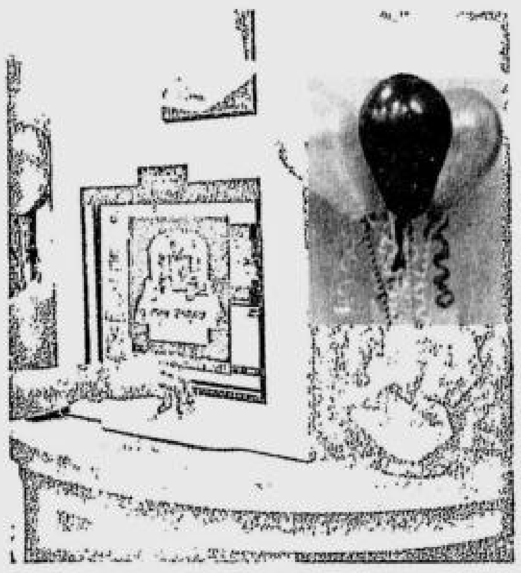
The plan for the new look and service was made two years ago with the help of DQA Industrial Design company.



FOOD crew prepares fresh *lumpiang ubod*.



PINOY Deli counter sells flavorful ready-to-eat viands.



INTERACTIVE Cake Gallery features choices for different occasions and themes; (right) showcase of party cakes

ENDORSER James Yap and marketing director Pinky Yee

"We felt we needed to present Filipino food in a more appetizing manner," Yee says. "Our concept of presenting food has always been [aimed at appealing to the senses]. People have to see it, smell it and feel good about it."

Of course, a meal at Goldilocks cannot be complete without dessert. So, right next to the cashier is the dessert station where diners can get *halo-halo* or *sago't gulaman*. Also available are *leche flan*, egg pie, Black Forest, Cathedral Window, Crema de Fruta, cheesecake and mocha roll, among others.

A menu board presenting the food in bigger, nicer photographs helps people make their choice. "When you're [in a group], not everybody goes to the counter. By just looking at the board... they... can [choose] what they want [and tell whoever is doing the ordering]."

In one corner is a flat-screen television showing Goldilocks products. A wall called Sweet Moment features photographs of customers enjoying bakeshop items.

Interactive bakeshop

At the bakeshop area, the Touch Screen Cake Gallery lets people who want to order cakes for parties choose from a computerized album.

"Kids nowadays are so tech-savvy. So we want to be more relevant to the young... kids... go with their moms and choose their own birthday cakes. [With] the Cake Gallery, [they can] choose the cake's themes and cartoon characters to go into it," says Yee.

Goldilocks has official licenses for popular cartoon characters from Disney, Warner Bros., Nickelodeon and Cartoon Network.

Kids can have the Justice League, Power Puff Girls, SpongeBob Squarepants, Dora, and even the local Super Inggo and Darna, among others.

The gallery is divided into cakes for different occasions like wedding and debut, colors and sizes.

Goldilocks also bakes different kinds of bread, including the zero trans-fat loaf that is fortified with Omega 3. The bakeshop also makes sugar-free *mamon*, *ensaimada* and walnut brownies.

"Innovation is key to our business. Being the market leader, we must set the trend," says Yee.

One successful innovation is the Pinoy Deli that produces ready-to-eat meals like *dinuguan*, *laing*, *lechon paksiw* in a pouch. The products have no preservatives and have a shelf life of one year. Pinoy Deli is doing particularly well among overseas Filipino workers.

Now on its 41st year, Goldilocks Bakeshop has over 500 products and 228 stores worldwide.

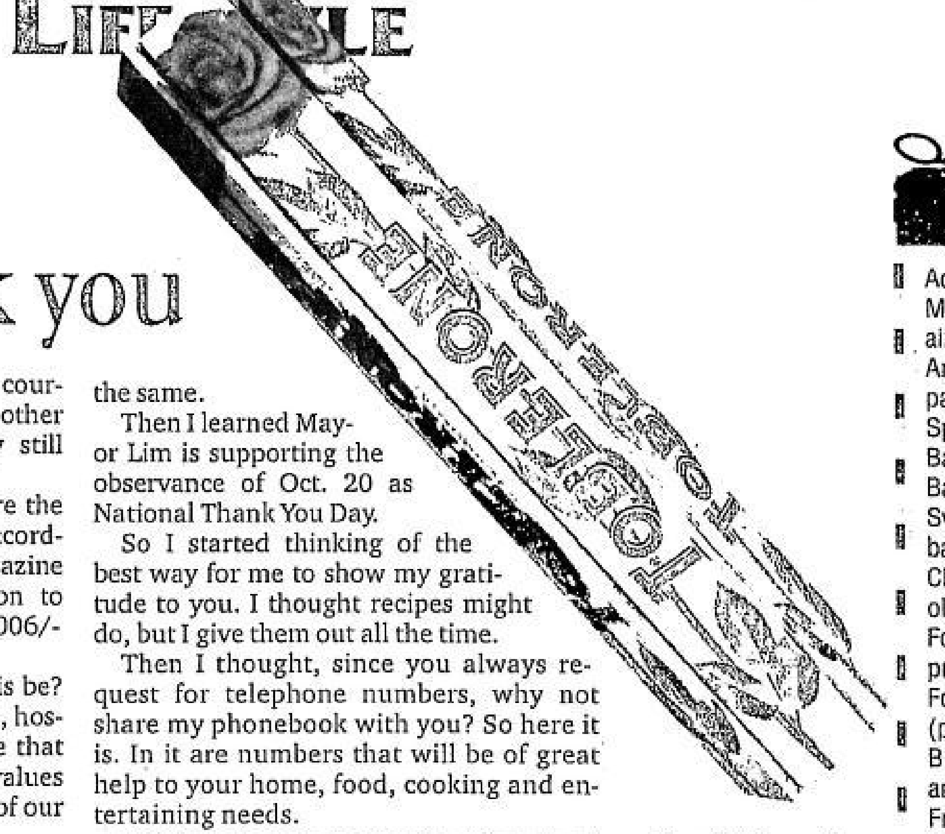
Yee says, "Goldilocks is not just for us. It is for the Filipino people. They deserve high-quality, Pinoy-made products that they can be proud of."

DID YOU KNOW?

HERE ARE SOME INTERESTING facts about Goldilocks, culled from its four decades of bringing good food and good memories to Filipino households.

- The name Goldilocks is often associated with the timeless fairytale. However, Goldilocks actually is the result of the founders' wanting to combine two words in the bakeshop's name: "Gold" and "Luck."
- Goldilocks traces its roots to a simple one-door apartment in a two-story structure at 2300 Pasong Tamo Street in Makati.
- Its first-day sales totaled P574 back on May 15, 1966.
- The ultimate bestseller in Goldilocks' entire history is the soft, tasty *mamon*. In terms of volume, however, the sweet *polvoron* leads.
- Goldilocks is credited as the originator of Crema de Fruta in the Philippines. Despite its Spanish-sounding name (and its having been inspired by a Spanish recipe), it is now considered a Filipino original.
- Goldilocks is able to produce over 1,500 cake rolls in an hour.
- System-wide, Goldilocks uses approximately 220,000 eggs from different local suppliers and 10,000 kilos of sugar every day.
- Brazo de Mercedes, Cathedral Window and Mocha Roll are among the popular products that have been offered since the start of the bakeshop's operation.
- Approximately a third of the 228 Goldilocks stores worldwide are franchised outlets. After achieving remarkable success with one franchise, more than half of franchisees decided to own more.
- The Goldilocks stores found in malls are usually company-owned.
- It is well-known that Goldilocks is celebrating its 41st anniversary in the Philippines this year. What many people do not know is that the company is also celebrating its 31st year of operations in the United States.
- Goldilocks has stores in northern and southern California; Las Vegas, Nevada; and Vancouver, Canada.
- One of the most unusual requests Goldilocks ever received was to create a miniature replica of the Ali Mall building for its opening and blessing. However, Ali Mall forgot to take into consideration the size of the door. The cake replica was so huge, it could not pass through the door!
- Another request spanned a couple of decades and two continents. In the 1970s, a young boy celebrated his seventh birthday with a Goldilocks Combat cake (similar to "GI Joe"). Sadly, the little boy died a few years later. Fast forward to several years later. His sister had moved to Canada and had a little boy of her own. To celebrate her son's seventh birthday, she asked Goldilocks Vancouver if they could replicate her brother's cake. Armed with only a picture of the decades-old cake, Goldilocks managed to recreate the Combat cake. The woman was so touched because she was able to relive her memories of her brother.
- Past Goldilocks endorsers include Shaina Magdayao, Iza Calzado, Jolina Magdangal, Diether Ocampo; Maricel Laxa, Anthony Pangilinan and their kids; and Nina.
- Present product endorsers are Kris Aquino and James Yap.

Vangie Baga-Reyes



KITCHEN RESCUE
Reggie Aspiras

Here's to thank you

THE OTHER WEDNESDAY, Brad Geiser handed me a bouquet of long-stemmed Toblerone roses. When I asked him what it was for, he simply said, "Amor and I would like to thank you."

My next question was fairly simple, "Thank me for what?" He simply replied, "That we made your acquaintance."

As it turned out, Brad's been bitten by a bug that is the National Thank You Day, a project that his firm is handling.

I asked him how National Thank You Day came to be. Truth be told, I was not at all interested. I thought it was just another marketing ploy.

Then I was told that we did so poorly in a recent study conducted on common courtesy. The study checked, among other things, whether residents of a city still knew how to say thank you.

New York, Zurich and Toronto were the top three while Manila ranked 22, according to Reader's Digest Canada magazine (To read more on the study, log on to http://www.readersdigest.ca/mag/2006/-07/polite.php).

I was flabbergasted! How could this be? We are proud of all that we are: warm, hospitable and courteous. We are a race that takes pride in holding on to age-old values like respect for elders and the beauty of our *bayanihan* spirit, etc.

Though I strongly disagree and do not believe a mere study should be a basis for judging an entire race, I am saddened just the same.

Then I learned Mayor Lim is supporting the observance of Oct. 20 as National Thank You Day.

So I started thinking of the best way for me to show my gratitude to you. I thought recipes might do, but I give them out all the time.

Then I thought, since you always request for telephone numbers, why not share my phonebook with you? So here it is. In it are numbers that will be of great help to your home, food, cooking and entertaining needs.

From me to you, *maraming salamat po!* Thank you for taking time out to read Kitchen Rescue!

E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph

Reggie's Phonebook

Acoustic Strings	0917-8915865
Mang June, aircon repair	8681073
Arnaldo Zamora, party props	6696641/ 0927-7201968
Spices, Assad	5261349
Bailon's Lumpiang Bacolod	8436673
Sweetcraft, baking supplies	5321595
Claudine, specialty olive oils, salt, fruits	0917-8958191
Food order (reasonably priced), Boots Salas	0916-5265284
Food boxes (packaging), RM	7138547
Brazo de Mercedes and Butter Cake	8107529
Frozen Brazo	8438086
Bordadoras	7180901
Best Buko Pandan	045-9616817
Coffee caterers, Cafe ni Juan	0917-5277141
Beautiful yet reasonably priced cakes, Sasa	0917-5339275
Candy cart rentals for parties/candy importer	0917-5220495
Catering equipment rental	8890268/ 8431960
Gift Packages—food and nonfood	6471054
Importer and distributor of all seafood, Midas	5240006
Chocolate cupcakes with caramel centers, chocolate chip cookies, Roshan	0917-8336286
Best *pan de sal*, San Antonio Bakery (Nora)	4338128
Delicious chocolate cake, Fortune	8443663
Lace cookies, Dentelle au Chocolat	0917-6220427
Virgin coconut oil ice cream	0917-8966581
Aklan crispy shrimps	0918-2390038
Ensaimada, Cunanan	6310798
Hula/folk dancers	0917-6253783
Best date bars, Lorenzo's	8527798
Ostrich meat; local feta, blue and goat cheeses; Olive	0917-7001205
Hand-carved *dayap* and long-tail *pastillas* wrapper, Luz	044-7915657
Personalized gift wrappers, De Veria	9395468
Dessert buffet, Strawberry and Mango Charlotte, Cristina Santiago	8440680
Yummy White Salad and Pastillas Cheesecake, Doren Tayag	0917-5312712
Dragon dancers	0917-8911861
Elar's Lechon & Catering Service	7325125
Giant *siopao*, Emerald Restaurant	5238510
Carpet cleaners, Esling	0906-2093158/ 0918-5713723
Fireworks	0928-7983636
Tilapia chicharon	045-8887906
Food for the Gods, Livy	3722740
Food packaging, Detpac	5326368
Food technologist, Tess	0922-8119827,
Super moist mini cupcakes, Fudgy Bonbon	6331513
Icon chopping boards (great as gifts), Fr. Dennis	0917-8312570
Pickled gherkins, Sr. Mary Raphael	0927-9992028
Beautiful party invitations	7229842
Jumbo *pastillas*	7290325
Blinds Black Out, Jo Chan	0917-7955667
Packed lunch and food orders, Joel	0917-8016608
Joy Charcoal Stove	0920-9543425
JT's Manukan-Inasal catering	7219025
Pandan cake, Judah	8966872
Kitchen cabinets, furniture	0917-5555222
Kakanin, San Vicente	044-5114382
White *kuchinta*, Ninay	0919-2425081
Puto Batangas	0910-2482385
Chocolate Ganache and sugar-free cakes, Karen	8982280
Vanilla bean, Karin	8928286
Flower wholesalers, ornamental cabbages	9294110
La Comida, reasonably priced caterers, *puto bumbong* and *bibingka*	4260471
Lamb *lechon*, Robert	0906-8404323
Leggerio Strings	0919-3169252
Flavored *lechon*	0917-8975966
Pest control, Mario	0917-8173680
Beautiful cakes, Marta Matute	0917-8409984
Meat processing (classes, materials, spices), Lou Rivera	7420826/ 4111349
Local meat supplier, Ding	0917-8531269
Sausage casings and curing mixes, MGM	7184278
Reasonably priced restaurant designers, Mike Pizarro	0917-8941467

To be continued .

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Rellenong Bangus
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Beef Morcon
P129
new
Breaded Pork Chop
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Meals served with Coca-Cola and your choice of cake roll.
Ube roll
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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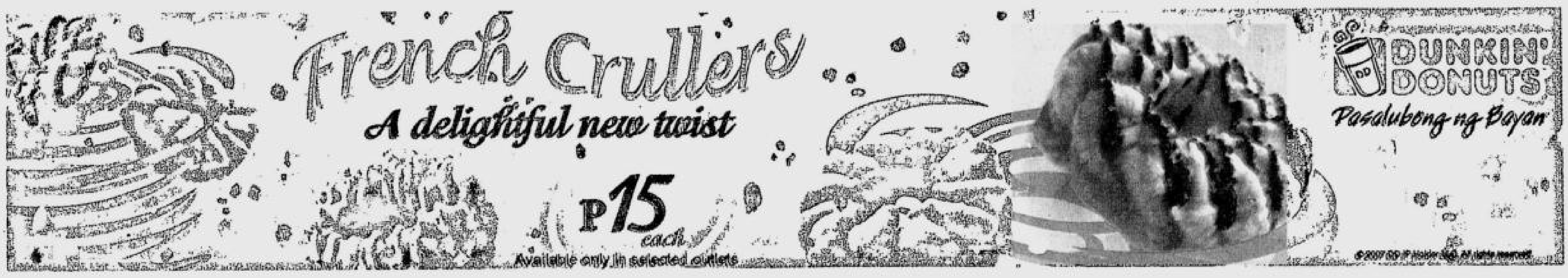


YASMIEN Kurdi as a scavenger

Wading through trash for a soap

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

"LIKE VINEGAR AND MANURE—LIKE A ROTTING CORPSE," IS how Yasmien Kurdi describes the stench of the Payatas and Montalban landfills, where she recently shot scenes for the GMA 7 afternoon soap, "Pasan Ko ang Daigdig."

In this remake of the 1987 Lino Brocka movie, Yasmien plays a scavenger. She had to wade through trash, as did the original film's star, Sharon Cuneta, on Smokey Mountain.

"Friends warned that I might catch all sorts of germs," Yasmien recalls. "But it wasn't that bad." She spent just a total of five days in the dumpsites but acquired lessons that, she is sure, will last her a lifetime.

"The people were courteous and considerate," she recounts. "They never disturbed us. They were focused on digging through the garbage heap. The experience made me realize that there *really* is money in trash."

She herself found "treasures ... like a Marithé + François Girbaud wallet and a Victoria's Secret bra." Even a bottle of red wine, which she gave to the scavengers.

Series director Joel Lamangan says the young actress works hard: "She interacted closely with the scavengers, observing the way they went about their business. She thought nothing of sitting on the ground when the scene called for it."

"Pasan" is the second Sharon Cuneta movie remake that Yasmien topbills—following "Pati Ba Pintig ng Puso," which proved popular among afternoon viewers.

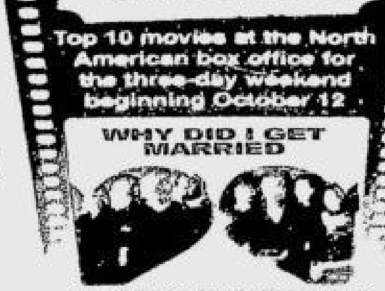
"I feel pressured because comparisons [with Sharon] are bound to happen," she admits. "[But] I just try to do my best."

Yasmien is now being pitted against another ABS-CBN star, Kristine Hermosa, whose own soap, "Prinsesa ng Banyera," also airs in the afternoon.

WEEKEND BOX OFFICE

Top 10 movies at the North American box office for the three-day weekend beginning October 12

WHY DID I GET MARRIED



Why Did I Get Married?, Lionsgate

TW	LW	Title	Total gross	WR
1	☆	Why Did I Get Married?	$ 21.5 mln	1
2	1	The Game Plan	$ 11.5 mln	3
3	☆	We Own the Night	$ 11.0 mln	2
4	22	Michael Clayton	$ 11.0 mln	1
5	2	The Heartbreak Kid	$ 7.4 mln	2
6	☆	Elizabeth: The Golden Age	$ 6.2 mln	1
7	3	The Kingdom	$ 4.6 mln	3
8	12	Across the Universe	$ 4.0 mln	5
9	4	Resident Evil: Extinction	$ 2.7 mln	4
10	5	The Seeker	$ 2.2 mln	2

TW This week *LW* Last week ☆ New release *WR* Weeks in release

Based on studio estimates compiled on Sunday REUTERS

CHEER FACTOR

Led Zep music online

LONDON—STARTING NEXT month, Led Zeppelin fans will be able to download the band's entire back catalogue at online music stores, Warner Music has announced.

The legendary rock band's decision to sell their music on the Net from Nov. 13 precedes a one-off comeback concert in London later that month. "We are pleased that our complete catalogue will now be available digitally," guitarist Jimmy Page said in a statement.

On the same day, the band will release "Mothership"—a 24-song, two-CD retrospective that spans their 12-year career. *AFP*

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DAPAT KALIMUTAN ANG PROBLEMA.
DAPAT MONG PANOORIN.
KAHIT APAT NA BESES AY SULIT PA RIN!

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Eugene Domingo
Pokwang
Candy Pangilinan
Apat Dapat
DAPAT APAT
FRIENDS 4 LYF AND DEATH

Directed by WENN V. DERAMAS

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KNOCKED UP R18 2:10,4:50,7:30,10:10	STARDUST G 12:00,2:35,5:10, 7:45,10:20	HIGHLANDER: THE SOURCE R13 1:50,4:00,6:10, 8:20,10:30
NO RESERVATIONS G 12:30,2:50	MR.WOODCOCK 2:20,4:20,6:20, 8:20,10:20	THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING G 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30

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1	KNOCKED UP 2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:10 R-18
2	THE SEEKER 1:15, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 GP
3	STARDUST 2:15, 5:05, 7:55, 10:40 G
4	MR. WOODCOCK

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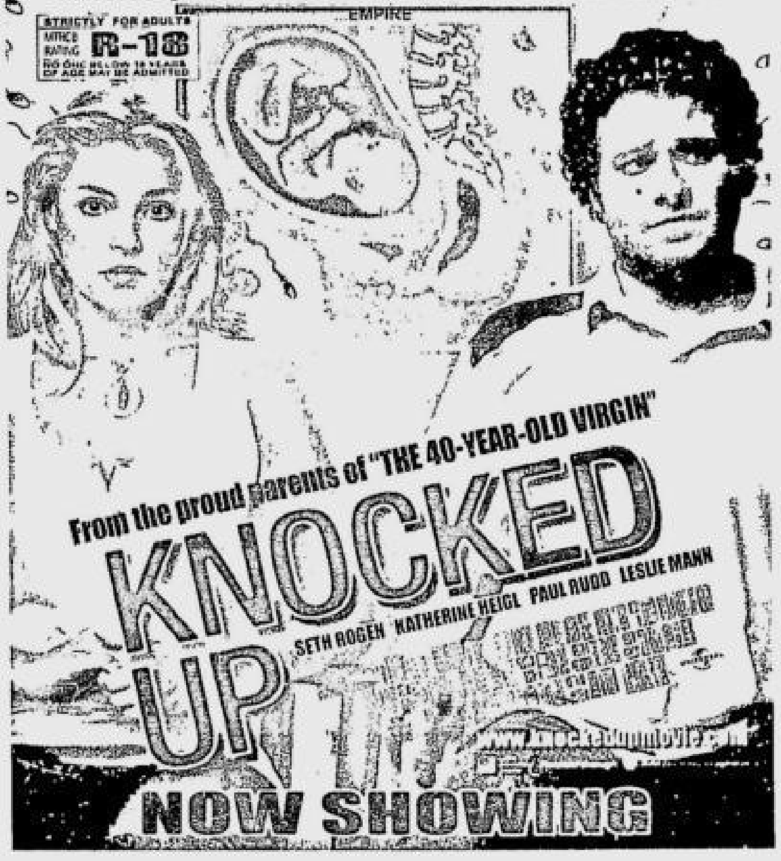
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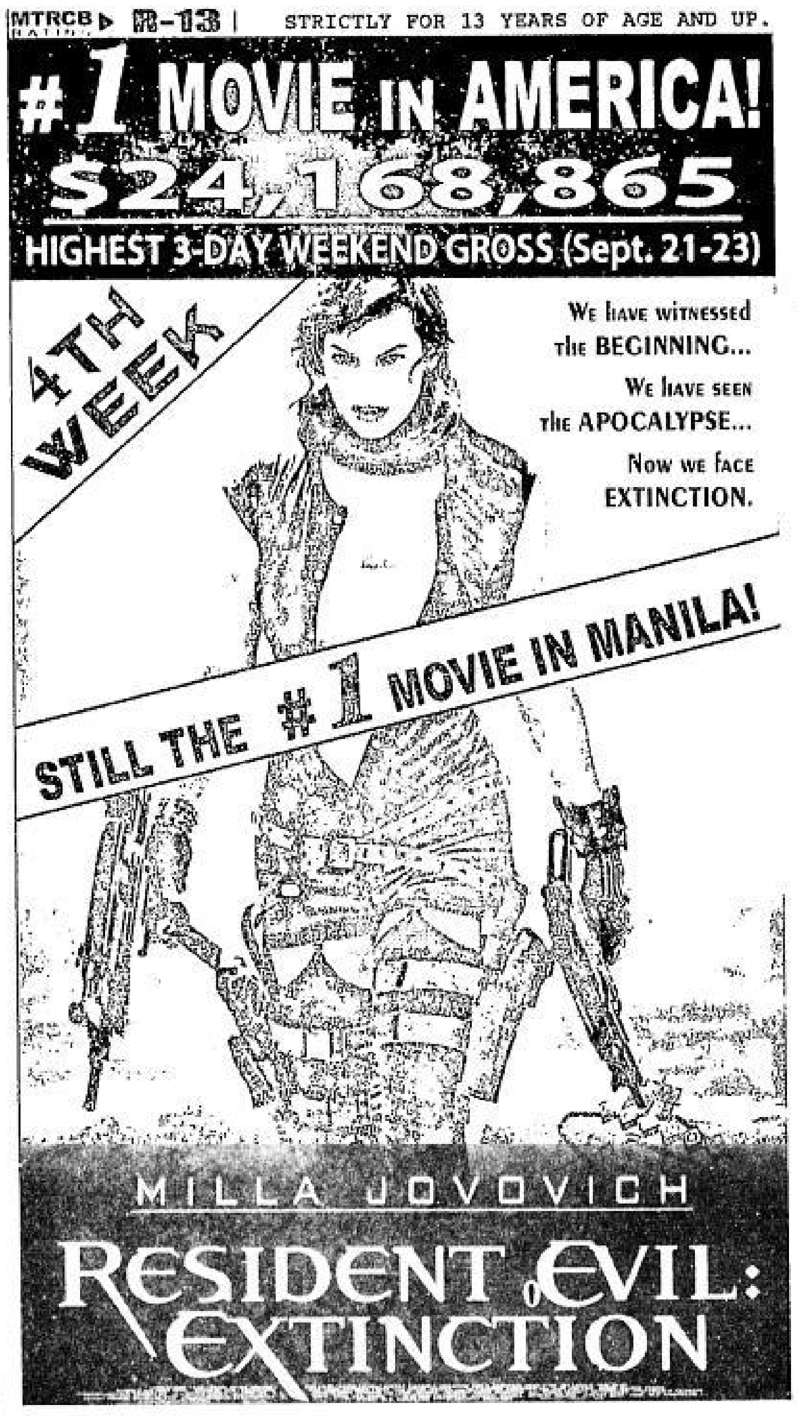
HIGHLANDER
HIGHLANDER
NOW, HE WILL TAKE ON THE MOST POWERFUL AND MOST EVIL IMMORTAL OF ALL.
GOOD VS EVIL
ONE FINAL BATTLE
ADRIAN PAUL
HIGHLANDER
THE SOURCE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MILLA JOVOVICH
RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION

"A MODEL Life With Petra Nemcova"

Modeling series

"A MODEL Life WITH PETRA Nemcova" chronicles the real story of what it takes to be a model in New York City, without staged elimination or challenges.

The eight-part series premieres on Discovery Travel and Living on Nov. 1 and airs every Thursday from 10 to 11 p.m. Episodes encore the following Sunday at 1 p.m.

In the series, six new models are brought to the biggest stage in modeling and viewers follow them from their first test shoot to the runways of New York Fashion Week.

Petra Nemcova serves as mentor to the prospective models, as they learn the trade of modeling and the business of fashion.

'Planet in Peril'

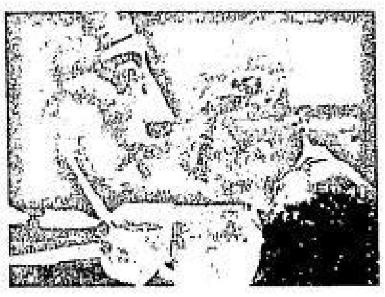
Nearly a year in the making, "Planet in Peril" takes viewers to four continents and 13 countries where environmental change is not a theory, or possibility, but a crisis happening in real time.

CNN anchor Anderson Cooper, chief medical correspondent Dr. Sanjay Gupta and Animal Planet host and wildlife biologist Jeff Corwin will focus on four main issues that threaten the planet and its inhabitants: Climate change, deforestation, species loss and overpopulation.

The four-hour documentary airs on CNN International on Oct. 24 and 25 at 9 p.m.

'Tut's Treasure Tour'

For the first time in 30 years, the magnificent treasures from the tomb of Tutankhamen are on a blockbuster tour.



After a huge nine-month run, King Tut and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs is closing in Chicago and everything needs to be packed and loaded onto trucks, including the walls.

It's only 35 days until opening in Philadelphia, and the Tut circus is about to hit the road.

"Inside: King Tut" is an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at the unseen world of one of the greatest museum shows of all time as it travels on tour.

"Tut's Treasure Tour" airs on Oct. 22 at 4 p.m., Oct. 29 at 7 p.m. and Oct. 30 at 6 a.m. on the National Geographic Channel.

CLAIRE DANES with MICHELLE PFEIFFER and ROBERT DE NIRO
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AT THE CINEMAS

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GLORIETTA 4	1 MR. WOODCOCK	2 STARDUST	3 THX HIGHLANDER: THE SOURCE GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 KNOCKED UP	5 PERFUME: THE STORY OF A MURDERER	6 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	7 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION
GREENBELT 1	1 MR. WOODCOCK	2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING		
GREENBELT 3	1 THX STARDUST GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 KNOCKED UP GUARANTEED SEATS	4 PERFUME: THE STORY OF A MURDERER GUARANTEED SEATS	5 MR. WOODCOCK GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	2 MR. WOODCOCK		
	3 STARDUST	4 KNOCKED UP	5 HIGHLANDER: THE SOURCE	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	2 KNOCKED UP	3 STARDUST	4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
MARKET! MARKET!	1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	2 MR. WOODCOCK		
	3 KNOCKED UP	4 HIGHLANDER: THE SOURCE	5 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	
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	5 THE 11TH HOUR	6 KNOCKED UP	7 THX THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING GUARANTEED SEATS	

AT THE MALLS

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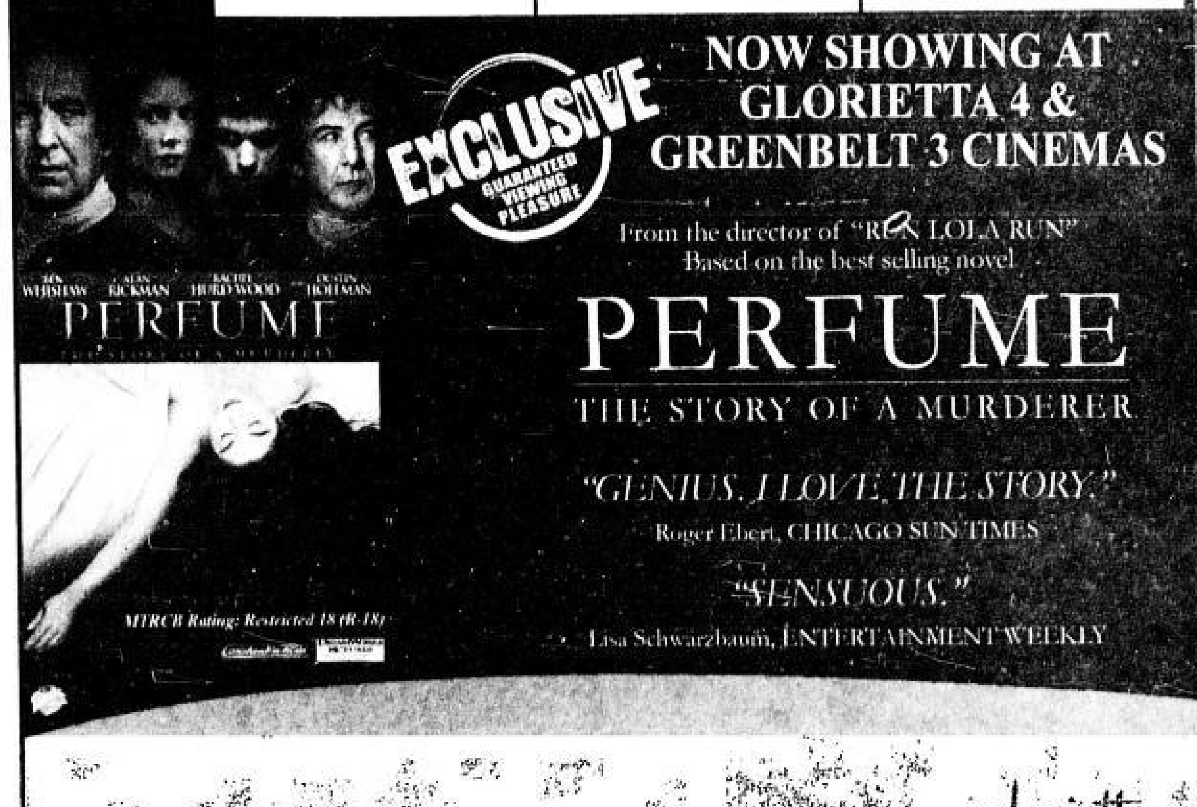
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

Ayala

glorietta	BPI Appliance Madness September 26 to October 16 at Glorietta Activity Center
GREENBELT	Viva Mexico: A Traditional Mexican Costume Exhibit October 8 to 15; Greenbelt 3 Lobby
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	The Click Five! ... America's Best Power Pop Band October 14; 6 PM; Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	BPI Automadness Exhibit October 11 to 14; Paseos
MARKET! MARKET!	Nescafe: Soundskool October 13; Activity Center
Greenbelt Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids August - December 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	HYBRIDITY: Mark Lewis Higgins September 18 to October 28, 2007; Ground Floor For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
Tri Noma	Rhythm Academy: Rachel Alejandro with Coro Tomasino October 17; 6 PM; Activity Center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"SENSUOUS."
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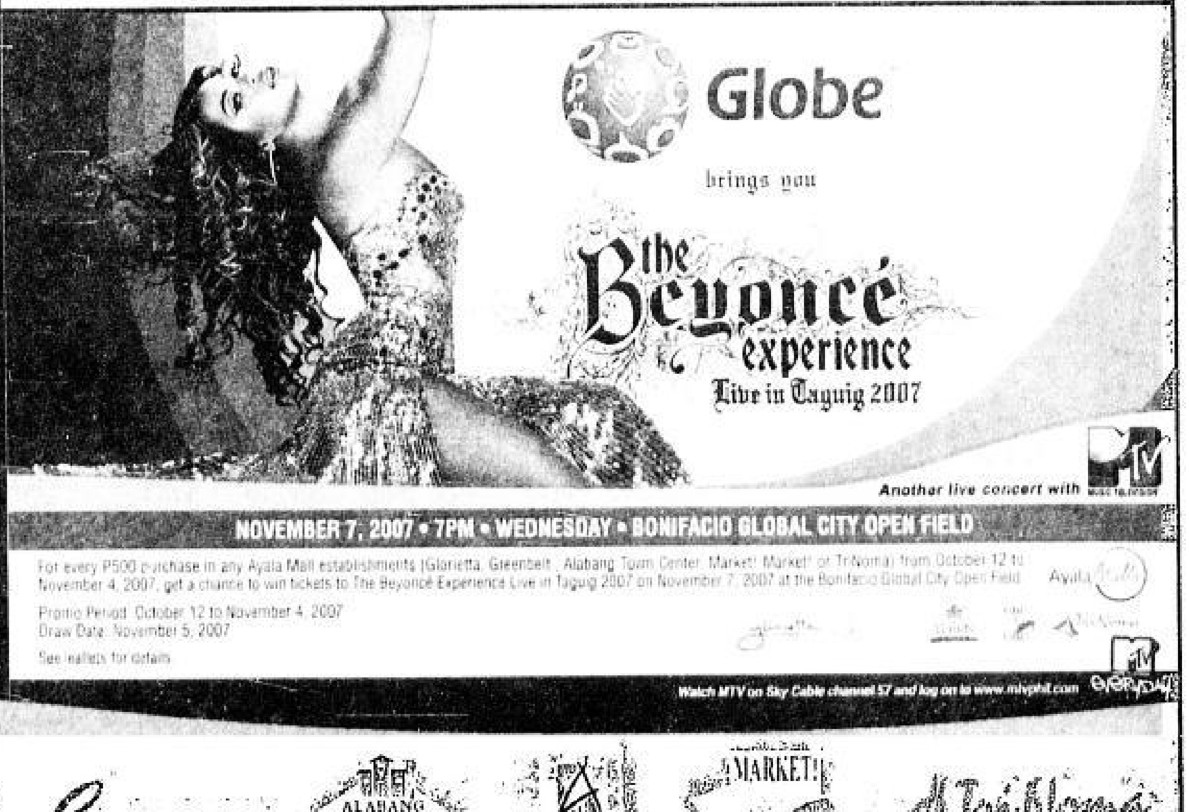
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Promo Period: October 12 to November 4, 2007
Draw Date: November 5, 2007
See leaflets for details

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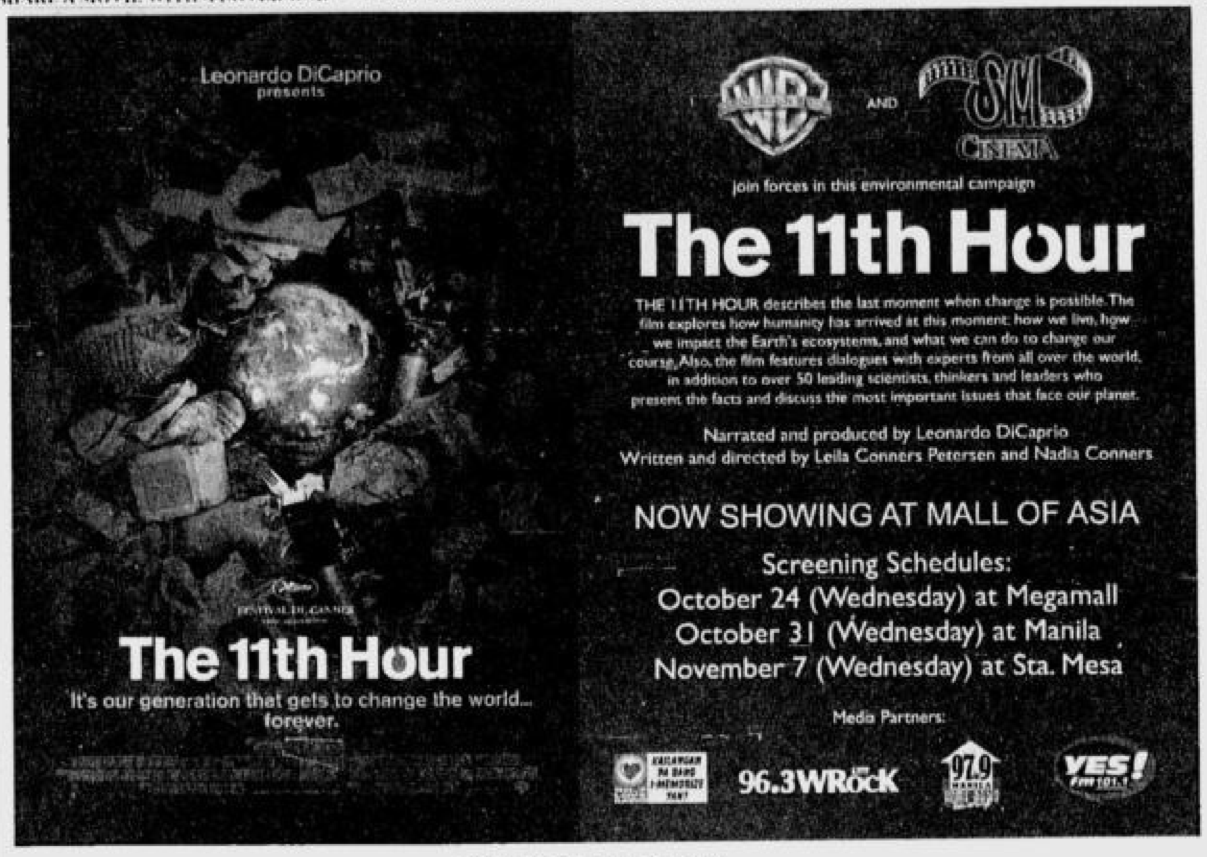

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4 MR. WOODCOCK
5 11TH HOUR
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

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6 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
7 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER
9 NO RESERVATIONS
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11 RETRIBUTION
12 ROGUE ASSASSIN

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7 RESIDENT EVIL
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10 KUNG FU FIGHTER
11 WEDDING DAZE
12 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

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7 KUNG FU FIGHTER
8 ROGUE ASSASSIN
9 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
10 NO RESERVATIONS

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3 HIGHLANDER V
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 STARDUST
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

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2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 HIGHLANDER V
5 MR. WOODCOCK
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
7 STARDUST
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER
9 RETRIBUTION

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3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

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2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 HIGHLANDER V
4 STARDUST
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 RESERVED
7 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
8 RETRIBUTION
9 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
10 KUNG FU FIGHTER
11 ROGUE ASSASSIN
12 MR. WOODCOCK

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1 STARDUST
2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

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1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 STARDUST
3 RETRIBUTION
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

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2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 DECEMBER BOYS

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2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 NO RESERVATIONS

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2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

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1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3 STARDUST
4 DECEMBER BOYS
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

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1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 WEDDING DAZE
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 NO RESERVATIONS

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39

1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 HAIRSPRAY
3 STARDUST
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3 RETRIBUTION
4 KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811

1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 SKINWALKERS
6 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884

1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 BRATZ
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 SKINWALKERS

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 RESERVED
3 WEDDING DAZE
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 DAYWATCH
6 ROGUE ASSASSIN
7 RESERVED
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

1 SINKING OF JAPAN
2 STARDUST
3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4 NO RESERVATIONS
5 SKINWALKERS
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
7 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
8 RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 STARDUST
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

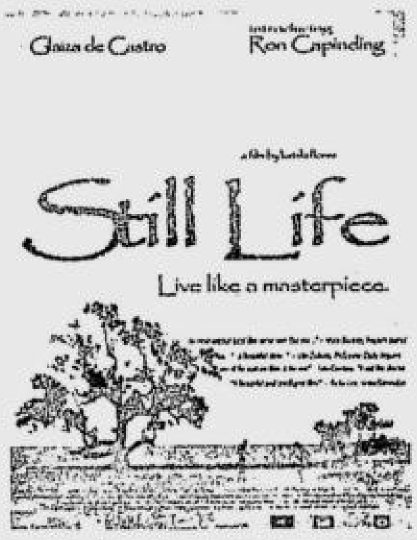
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

1 STARDUST • THX
2 MR. WOODCOCK
3 HIGHLANDER
4 KNOCKED UP
5 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
7 RESIDENT EVIL 3
8 indieSine: TUKSO / STILL LIFE
9 NO RESERVATIONS
10 KUNG FU FIGHTER

NOW SHOWING



Glaiza de Castro introducing Ron Capinding
Still Life
Live like a masterpiece.

TUKSO

ria

OCTOBER 17 to 23

MTRCB Rating: PG13

CINEMALAYA indieSine

ERMITA

Ticket Price: P110 / P120

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 STARDUST
3 KNOCKED UP
4 HIGHLANDER
5 MR. WOODCOCK
6 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
7 RESIDENT EVIL 3

METRO EAST

[illegible]

1 STARDUST
2 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
3 MR. WOODCOCK
4 HIGHLANDER
5 KNOCKED UP
6 RESIDENT EVIL 3
7 KUNG FU FIGHTER
8 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT

NOVALICHES

[illegible]

1 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
2 KNOCKED UP
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPT APAT
4 STARDUST

PIONEER

[illegible]

1 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
2 KNOCKED UP
3 MR. WOODCOCK
4 HIGHLANDER

STA. ROSA

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
2 KNOCKED UP
3 STARDUST
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 RESIDENT EVIL 3

LIPA

(043) 757-366 (043) 312-587

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 WEDDING DAZE
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 THE HOST
5 ROGUE ASSASSIN

DASMARIÑAS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
2 KNOCKED UP
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 KUNG FU FIGHTER

IMUS

Ticket Price: P100 (046) 875-383 (046) 471-818

1 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
2 KNOCKED UP
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 KUNG FU FIGHTER

ANGELES

Ticket Price: P90 / P95 (045) 892-2346

1 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
2 KNOCKED UP
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3 / DECEMBER BOYS

TARLAC

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

STARMILLS

(045) 875-1

1 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
2 KNOCKED UP
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
5 STARDUST
6 DECEMBER BOYS

BACOLOD

Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 THE HOST
5 STARDUST
6 indieSine: TUKSO

ILOILO

Ticket Price: P70 / P80 (033) 336-8070

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 WEDDING DAZE
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 THE HOST
5 DAYWATCH
6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

a film by Dennis Marasigan

CINEMALAYA 2007 Winner - Best Screenplay

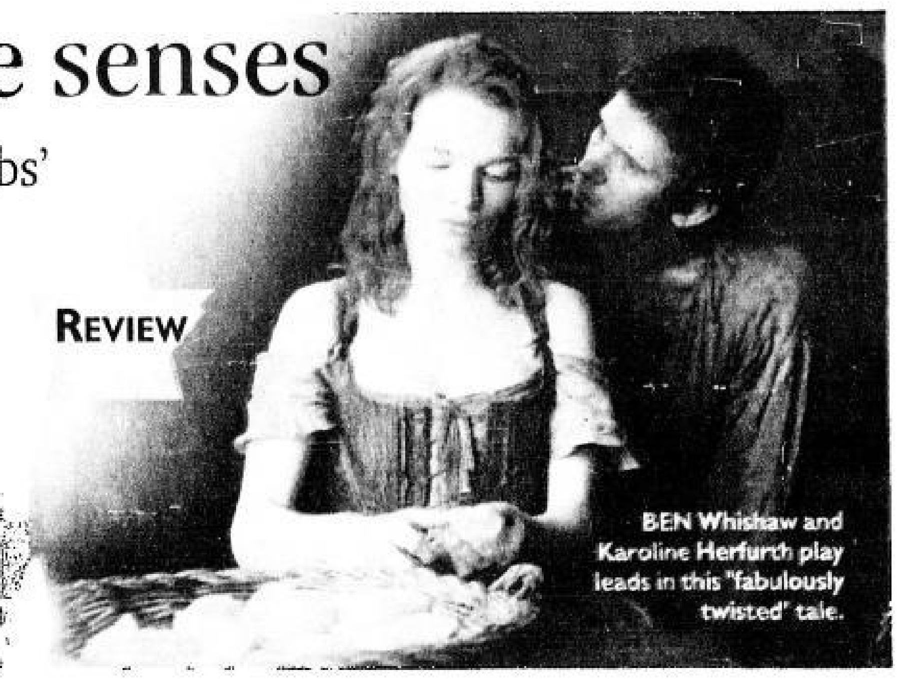
The mysterious death of a young village lass leads to the investigation of those who knew her and what they may have to gain from her death. Told from the perspectives of the different characters, the film examines how one's view may lead to varying interpretations of the same incidents.

showing at Robinsons Movieworld OCTOBER 17 to 23

Creepy feast for all the senses

'Perfume' is an olfactory 'Silence of the Lambs'

REVIEW



BEN Whishaw and Karoline Herfurth play leads in this "fabulously twisted" tale.

THINK OF "PERFUME: THE STORY of a Murderer" as an olfactory version of "The Silence of the Lambs": A perfume maker becomes a serial killer—or perhaps it's the other way around—to capture women's scents.

It's a fabulously twisted idea, based on the novel by Patrick Suskind and sensuously rendered in a fashion that's totally different from German director Tom Tykwer's best-known film, the vibrant "Run Lola Run."

Fluidly crafted

This one is fluidly crafted in Tykwer's style, though—you especially notice it at the beginning when the future killer, Jean-Baptiste Grenouille, is born on the floor of an 18th-century Paris fish market, landing on the ground with a splat amid the grime and stench. It's as disgusting, but the dazzling way it's edited makes the moment strangely beautiful.

Though "Perfume" is primarily about how things—and people—smell, it manages to be a feast for all the senses: the way a woman's curls fall down her back, how the crinkle of fine fabric sounds, the sensation of holding a piece of fruit.

Grenouille (played by British newcomer Ben Whishaw) doesn't notice any of that, of course; he merely follows his nose. With his wiry frame and intense eyes, Whishaw could be a modern-day Anthony Perkins as he methodically prowls for young girls and tests various methods of turning their essences into the finest perfume.

Grenouille has no sexual interest in them—he's just entranced and obsessed by scent, having been blessed with an unusually powerful proboscis. We know he's trouble early on from the way the other kids at the orphanage regard him.

"It was not that the other children hated him," we're told in a voiceover from John Hurt. "They felt unnerved by him."

He's both ardent and eerie, appreciative and predatory. His focus is enviable; his drive unflappable. He doesn't seem to think that what he's doing is wrong. Which would make him a sociopath—and the ideal figure around whom to center such a visceral thriller. (Tykwer co-wrote the script with Andrew Birkin and Bernd Eichinger.)

And because he's so serene as he goes about his business, Grenouille makes the supporting players seem even more colorful by comparison. Dustin Hoffman gets to chew the scenery as Guiseppe Baldini, his perfumer mentor.

Typically formidable

Alan Rickman is typically formidable as the father of the stunning redhead Grenouille seeks most, who will go to whatever lengths he must to protect his little girl.

But it's the sweet, virginal Laura, played by Rachel Hurd-Wood ("Peter Pan"), who is the ultimate object of Grenouille's affection—the one he believes will make his cannibalized cologne complete.

What he does with this concoction—and the effect it has on those who smell it—is ridiculously over-the-top. It is completely unbelievable and, even for such a fractured fantasy, takes way too long.

For a film that had been deeply, lushly, delightfully sinister up until this point, the ending is just plain silly. It still looks great, though—and probably would smell even better. *Christy Lemire, AP*

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 (DOLBY) NO RESERVATION
2 (DOLBY) THE SEEKER
3 (DOLBY) KNOCKED UP
4 (DOLBY) MR. WOODCOCK
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) STARDUST

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 KNOCKED UP
2 HIGHLANDER
3 MR. WOODCOCK

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
4 KNOCKED UP

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4234 / 816.4236
1 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
2 HIGHLANDER -V
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 KNOCKED UP

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
2 UNDERDOG

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) KNOCKED UP
2 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
3 (DOLBY) STURDUST
4 (DOLBY) MR WOODCOCK

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 KNOCKED UP
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) STURDUST
5

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 6433094
1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 KNOCKED UP

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
2 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
3 (DOLBY) RESIDENT EVIL - 3
4

THEATRES
1 CHUCK & LARRY
2 LAST LEGION
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 RISE
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 I KNOW WHO KILL ME
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 HOST

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
2 HOST
3 CHUCK & LARRY
4 THE BRAVE ONE

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
4 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
5 HIGHLANDER -V
6 STURDUST
7 KNOCKED UP
8 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
9 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
10 KUNG FU FIGHTER

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 NO RESERVATION / DECEMBER BOYS
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 HOST

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 DAY WATCH
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 ONE PERCENT FULL
2 AKO LANG SA LANGIT

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel 9341927
1 (DOLBY) APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
2 (DOLBY) ONE PERCENT FULL
3 (DOLBY) STURDUST
4 (DOLBY) KUNG FU FIGHTER

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 AKO LANG SA LANGIT
3 HIRAM
4 CHUCK & LARRY

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 AKO LANG SA LANGIT
3 THE SEEKER : THE DARK IS RISING
4 BATANG MAGDALENA
5 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
5 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 NO RESERVATION
2 WEDDING DAZE
3 HOST
KAPAG ANG PALAY MAY BUMAYO

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 KUNG FU FIGHTER
3 CHUCK & LARRY
4 AKO LANG SA LANGIT

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 AKO LANG SA LANGIT
2 ONE PERCENT FULL

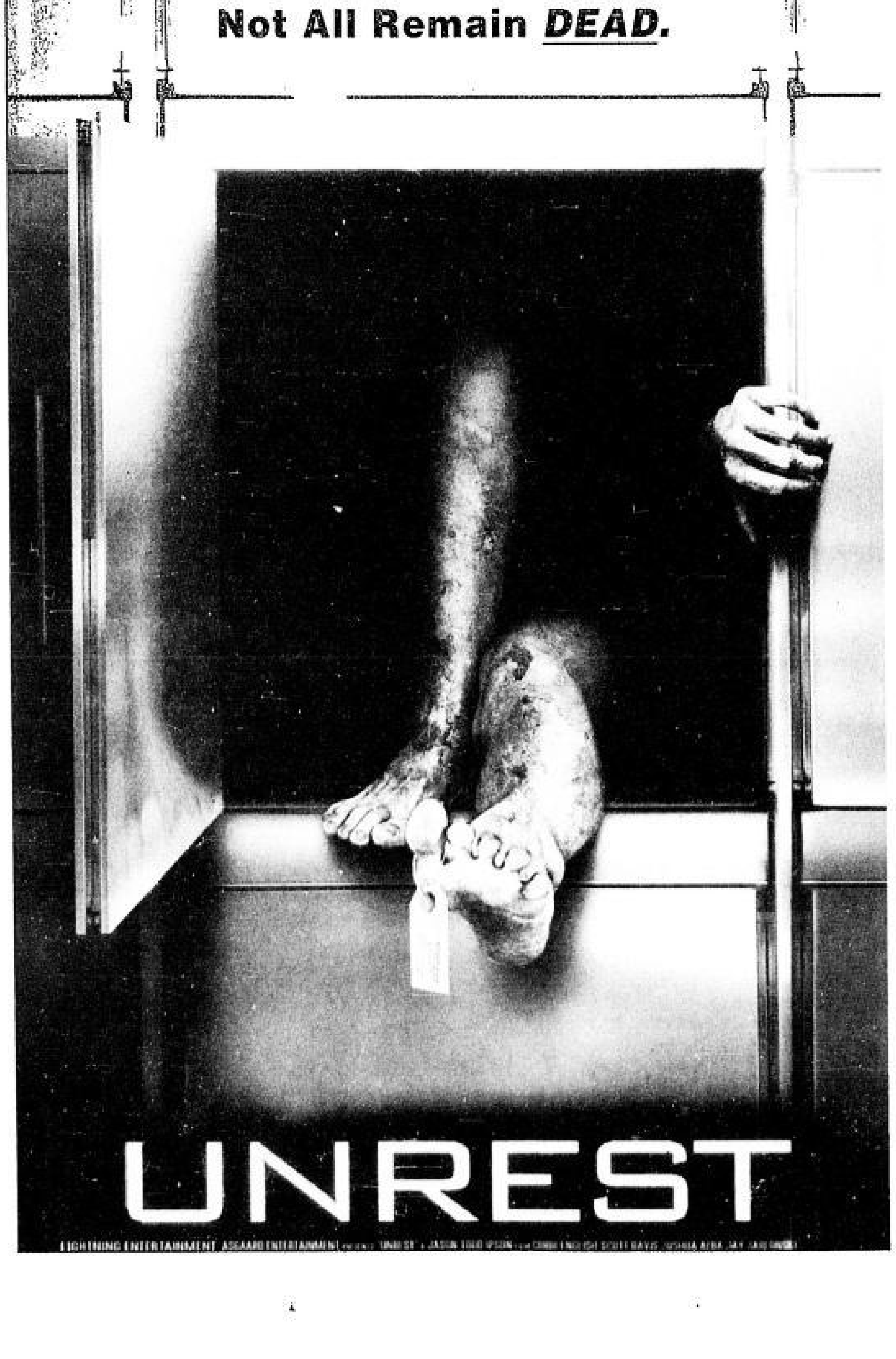
MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Araneta Center
aranetacenter.net
Gateway NMALL FarmersPlaza
gatewaymall.com.ph
Gateway CINEPLEX*10
gatewaycineplex10.com
ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE
KNOCKED UP 12:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20
THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING 12:15 / 2:35 / 4:55 / 7:15 / 9:50
MR WOODCOCK 2:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30
HIGHLANDER : THE SOURCE 1:45 / 4:20 / 6:55 / 9:30
APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
RESIDENT EVIL : EXTINCTION
STARDUST 12:35 / 3:30 / 6:25 / 9:20
THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00
NMALL CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS
HIGHLANDER : THE SOURCE 1:05 / 3:45 / 6:15 8:50
THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING 12:10 R5 / 1:00 / 3:30 / 5:50 / 8:10
ARANETA COLISEUM
www.aranetacoliseum.com
ERIK SANTOS.. SOLO AT THE COLISEUM
October 19, Friday, 8pm
PBA GAMES
October 21, Sunday
4:05 Magnolia vs Sta Lucia 6:30 Alaska vs Air 21
For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 CLOSED FOR PRIVATE EVENT
2 THE SEEKER MTRCB GP 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
3 KNOCKED UP MTRCB R 18 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
4 MR. WOODCOCK (SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING)
PREMIERE THEATRE STAR DUST (GP) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
Catch the Cineplex Special
Shang Cineplex E-see Club
Enjoy exciting privileges, rewards and discounts.
Apply at the Shang Cineplex ticket counters.
Log-on to www.shangcineplex.com
or call 633-4735 for details
6th floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Call 633-2227 or 633-4735
for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 KNOCKED UP 11:15, 2:10, 5:00 7:50, 10:35 R-18
CINEMA 2 HIGHLANDER 12:05, 2:40, 5:15 7:50, 10:25
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 STARDUST 11:00, 1:55, 4:50 7:45, 10:35 GP
CINEMA 4 MR. WOODCOCK 11:15, 1:35, 3:50 6:05, 8:20, 10:35
CINEMA 5 THE SEEKER 10:30, 12:50, 3:10 5:30, 7:50, 10:10 GP
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM
October 18 & 19, 2007 Jericho Rosales 8:00 PM
October 25, 2007 Ogie Alcasid 8:00 PM
October 27, 2007 Jonathan Badon 8:00 PM
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS
Oct. 17, 24 & 31 Cerrudo Classico 8:00 PM
October 26, 2007 John Lesaca 8:00 PM
FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

MUMULTUHIN KAYO SA OCT.24
SHOCKING but REAL!
Hundreds of Patients
Die in Hospitals Everyday...
Not All Remain DEAD.



UNREST

NOW SHOWING
The FUNNIEST MOVIE of the YEAR!
LAUGH 'TILL YOU DROP!
From the Producers of
"THE WEDDING CRASHERS"
LETTING GO OF YOUR PAST IS HARD...
ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S DATING YOUR MOM.

SEANN WILLIAM SCOTT BILLY BOB THORNTON AND SUSAN SARANDON
MR.WOODCOCK

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2007

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
NAANI JAPANESE RESTAURANT Lot 1 Blk. 7 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Goodwill 3, Brgy. San Antonio, Parañaque City	Changyeun Won Korean	General Manager
PHILJOUN TOUR & TRAVEL CORP. Legaspi Tower 300 Roxas Blvd., Manila	Seong Eun Lim Korean	Consultant
BACLARAN CHINESE DRUG STORE 7312 G. Tuazon St. Sampaloc, Manila	Yingfeng Cai Chinese	Manager
NEW TIME SAVER CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION 1240 E. De los Santos Ave Quezon City	Liqing Gao Chinese	Operation's Consultant
HANBYUL LEARNING CENTER Units 24 E&D, 24th Flr. Summit One Office Tower, 520 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City	Hee Suk Park Korean	Marketing Agent / Consultant
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Kai Seang Khoo Malaysian	Chinese-Language Sports Trader
CHARITY JEWELRY COLLECTION Stall S China City Gold Center, Ongpin St., Sta. Cruz, Manila	Jiarong Li Chinese	Sales Manager
KAYSIE, INC. #5045 P. Burgos St., Brgy. Poblacion, Makati City	Jorge Armando Berrocal Castilla Peruvian	VP-Marketing
RONQUILLO CHINESE DRUGSTORE 521 Ronquillo St., Sta. Cruz, Manila	Xiaoqing Shi Chinese	Manager
PHILKINGDOM INC. 17th Floor Tower 1, The Enterprise Center, corners of Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Meng Kuan Chew Singaporean	Sales and Marketing Manager
WESTERN UNION SERVICES (PHILIPPINES) INC. 1024 Global Trade Center, EDSA, Quezon City	Teopisto Floro Gatmaitan Jr. Australian	Process Re-engineering & Projects, Team Leader
WESTERN UNION SERVICES (PHILIPPINES) INC. 1024 Global Trade Center, EDSA, Quezon City	Marie Anne Ziesel Australian	SME Call Center Team Leader
PACIFIC GOODWILL BUSINESS CONSULTING INC. UNIT-15D Ramon Magsaysay Center, 1680 Roxas Blvd. Malate, Manila	Myo Joo Sang (w/o Lim) Korean	Assistant Manager
INNOVATIONS & CONCEPTS INCORPORATED 120 Jupiter St., Bel Air Village, Makati City	Laurent Wilfrid Hebert usage Gollaux-Hebert French	Consultant
PROCTER & GAMBLE ASIA PTE. LTD. 10th Flr. Petron Megaplaza, 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. Makati City	Ping Chu Taiwanese	Process Owner
JAIMAALAKSHMI LENDING & TRADING CORP. U-112-3A Balagtas Villas, Balagtas St., Pasay City	Rajni Bala Indian	Consultant
CARRIER INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 39/F Union Bank Plaza Bldg., Meralco cor. Onyx St., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	An Song Lee Korean	Junior Administrator
TARLII MINING CORPORATION Unit 1206 Security Bank Centre, 6776 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Qing Yang Chinese	Sales Director
TARLII MINING CORPORATION Unit 1206 Security Bank Centre, 6776 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Chak Hung Siu British	Consultant
NOVARTIS HEALTHCARE PHILIPPINES INC. 2/F Asian Reinsurance Bldg., Salcedo cor. Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Joseph Maurice O'neill New Zealander	OTC Business Unit Head
24HRS CAR CENTER CORP. 8418 Sucat Rd., Parañaque City	Yingxuan Xu Chinese	Sales Consultant

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

for RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC-Regional Director

DOLE ERRATUM

In the NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S of the DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE-NCR), published on this paper on October 9, 2007 the name of Awie of OAKLEIGH CAPITAL, LTD. was inadvertently printed:

(PDI - Oct. 18, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
National Irrigation Administration
Region IV, Pila Laguna
Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDPII)
Construction of ARMACA CIP
Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro
Loan 7152-PH

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

October 18, 2007

The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from The World Bank toward the cost of the Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDPII) and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan, together with the LGU counterpart funds, to payments under the contract for the construction of ARMACA COMMUNAL IRRIGATION PROJECT (Packages I-IV) located at Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro under Contract Number RIIRR 06 238 02 ARM-OM.

The National Irrigation Administration Regional Office No. IV now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the construction of ARMACA COMMUNAL IRRIGATION PROJECT (Package I-IV) located at Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro under Contract Number RIIRR 06 238 02 ARM-OM and is expected to be completed and delivered within the specified calendar days below from the date of official start of the subproject.

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS					
SCOPE OF WORK		PERCENTAGE	ESTIMATED PROJECT COST (Php)	NO. OF CALENDAR DAYS TO COMPLETE	AMOUNT OF BID SECURITY
Package I —	Diversion Works, Canal Structures and Canalization	100%	6,772,915.25	180	169,322.88
Package II —	Canal Structures Canalization	100%	11,100,649.62	180	277,516.24
Package III —	Canal Structures	100%	10,358,372.95	180	258,959.32
Package IV —	Canal Structures	100%	11,953,104.14	180	298,827.60

(Bill of quantities / details of item of work is included in the Bid Data Sheet (BDS) of Bidding Documents.)

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act as harmonized with World Bank Procurement Guidelines. Subject to exceptions stated in this Bidding Documents, only Bids from Bidders who pass an eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification. The Total Estimated Project Cost per package is shown in the above matrix.

The documents required in the Eligibility Documents shall be submitted as part of the Technical Documents of the Bidders as provided in the Instruction to Bidders.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the National Irrigation Administration Region IV-BAC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. on October 18 to November 20, 2007.

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 7,500.00. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before 10:00 A.M. November 20, 2007.

The BAC-NIA, Region IV, Pila, Laguna will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on November 6, 2007 at 10:00 A.M. at NIA-Provincial Irrigation Office San Jose, Occidental Mindoro.

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before the scheduled opening of bids. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of CASH, MANAGER'S CHECK, CASHIER'S CHECK AND BANK GUARANTEE and in an amount specified above as per package or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at the NIA Provincial Irrigation Office San Jose, Occidental Mindoro

Minimum Equipment Required:

For PACKAGE I – Minimum Equipment Required. Bulldozer 180 Hp (1 unit) – owned/leased; Dump Truck min. 10. cu. m. cap. (2 units) – 1-owned, 1-leased; Concrete Mixer 1 Bagger (3 units) – owned; Backhoe 0.50 min. cap. (2 units) – owned/leased, Water Pump 4" dia (4 units)-owned; Surveying Instruments (1 set) – owned; Loader (1 unit)-owned; Plate Compactor (1 unit) – owned; Cargo Truck (1 unit) – owned. Other documents include valid PCAB License, valid and current Mayor's Permit, BIR Tax Clearance and DOLE Certification.

For PACKAGE II – Minimum Equipment Required. Bulldozer 180 Hp (1 unit) – owned/leased; Backhoe 0.50 cu. m. min. cap (2 units) – owned/leased; Concrete Mixer 1 Bagger (2 units) – owned, Water Pump 4" dia. (3 units) – owned; Dump Truck min. 10 cu. m. cap. (2 unit) – 1-owned, 1-leased; Cargo Truck (1 unit) – owned, Plate Compactor (1 unit) – owned; Surveying Instruments (1 set) – owned. Other documents include valid PCAB License, valid and current Mayor's Permit, BIR Tax Clearance and DOLE Certification.

FOR PACKAGE III – Minimum Equipment Required Bulldozer 180 Hp (1 unit) – owned/leased; Backhoe 0.50 cu. m. min. cap. (2 units) – owned/leased, Concrete Mixer 1 Bagger (2 units) – owned; Water Pump 4" dia. (3 units) – owned, Dump Truck min. 10 cu.m. cap. (2 unit) – 1-owned, 1 leased; Cargo Truck (1 unit) – owned/leased; Plate Compactor (1 unit) – owned; Surveying Instruments (1 set) – owned. Other documents include valid PCAB License, valid and current Mayor's Permit, BIR Tax Clearance and DOLE Certification.

For PACKAGE IV – Minimum Equipment Required: Backhoe 0.50 cu.m. min. cap. (2 units) – owned/leased; Concrete Mixer 1 bagger (3 units) – owned, Water Pump 4' dia (2 units) – owned; Dump Truck min. 10 cu. m. cap. (2 unit) – 1-owned, 1-leased; Cargo Truck (1 unit) – owned/leased, Plate Compactor (1 unit) – owned/leased; Surveying Instruments (1 set) – owned. Other documents include valid PCAB License, valid and current Mayor's Permit, BIR Tax Clearance and DOLE Certification.

Other bidding activities which will be held at the NIA Provincial Irrigation Office San Jose, Occidental Mindoro are listed below:

	DATE/TIME OF PRE-BID CONFERENCE	DATE/TIME OF SUBMISSION OF BIDS	DATE/TIME OF OPENING OF BIDS
PACKAGE I	Nov. 6, 2007, 10:00 A.M.	Nov. 20, 2007 up to 10:00 A.M.	Nov. 20, 2007, 10:01 A.M.
PACKAGE II	Nov. 6, 2007, 10:00 A.M.	Nov. 20, 2007 up to 10:00 A.M.	Nov. 20, 2007, 10:30 A.M.
PACKAGE III	Nov. 6, 2007, 10:00 A.M.	Nov. 20, 2007 up to 10:00 A.M.	Nov. 20, 2007, 11:00 A.M.
PACKAGE IV	Nov. 6, 2007, 10:00 A.M.	Nov. 20, 2007 up to 10:00 A.M.	Nov. 20, 2007, 11:30 A.M.

The BAC-NIA Region IV, Pila Laguna reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Mr. ROMEO R. AÑONUEVO
BAC Chairman, National Irrigation Administration
Region IV, Pila, Laguna
Telephone # 049-559-0723

(Sgd.) ROMEO R. AÑONUEVO
BAC Chairman

Approved by
(Sgd.) EFREN S. ROQUEZA
Acting Regional Manager

(PDI – October 18, 2007)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project / Brief Description	Item 1 – One (1) lot supply and installation of the following aluminum louver-type diffusers and reflectors for fluorescent lightings at the EPDC and Multi-Storey Bldgs. (Phase II) per BSP scope of work and specifications 5,400 pcs. Standard Rectangular 1,100 pcs. Standard Trapezoidal 1,950 pcs. EDPC Rectangular 350 pcs. Wide Rectangular 1,950 pcs. Aluminum Reflector for EPDC Item 2 – One (1) lot supply and installation of the following per BSP scope of work and specifications: 10,000 pcs. 28-Watt Fluorescent Lamp 1,100 pcs. 17-Watt Fluorescent Lamp 5,600 pcs. Electronic Ballast
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Item 1 – P 9,374,554.00 Item 2 – P 6,036,459.00
Completion Period	Within one hundred eighty (180) calendar days after receipt of Notice to Proceed per item

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project awarded and completed from Y2002 to present with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting 18 October 2007
2. Pre-Bid Conference	09 November 2007, 4:00 PM
3. Opening of Bids	27 November 2007, 2:00 PM
4. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P4,690.00 for Item 1 and P3,020.00 for item 2.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA
Chairman

(PDI – October 18, 2007)

Rubicon Electro Inc.

A growing Electrical Construction company at HANJIN Subic Shipyard SBMA is in need of highly qualified professional individual.

Site Electrical Engineer (Foreman)

- 3 to 5 years of field experience.
- Hardworking, patient and has good interpersonal skills.
- Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (RME or REE is an advantage).

For interested applicants you can send your updated CV/Resumé with 2"x 2" picture to:

Rubicon Electro Inc.
c/o Jalien Cargo
Lot 7, 2nd Floor Greenwood Park
CBD Area, Rizal Avenue,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone

Or email at : rss1201@yahoo.com
Attn: Rose S. Sumandal
Administrative Officer

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
FIELD OFFICE VII
M.J. Cuenco Avenue corner Maxilom Avenue, Cebu City
Telephone Nos. (6332) 232-9507 ; Telefax (6332) 231-2172
Email: dswdro7@cvis.net.ph
Website: http://www.dswd.gov.ph/

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

HIRING OF SECURITY SERVICES
Approved Budget Contract – P3,200.000.00

1. The *DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE & DEVELOPMENT, Field Office VII, Cebu City*, through the *General Appropriations Act* intends to apply the sum of *THREE MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND (P 3,200,000.00)* PESOS being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the *HIRING OF SECURITY SERVICES* covering the period January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE & DEVELOPMENT, Field Office VII, Cebu City* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *Hiring of SECURITY SERVICES*. Delivery of the GOODS is required by *January 1, 2008*. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from *DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE & DEVELOPMENT, Field Office VII, Cebu City* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting October 24, 2007.*
5. A complete set of *Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders starting October 24, 2007* from the address below and upon presentation of a *Letter of Intent* and *payment of a non-refundable fee* in the amount of *One Thousand (P1,000.00) Pesos*. The method of payment will be *on a Cash basis payable at the Cash Unit*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *Department of Social Welfare and Development – Field Office VII* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *November 12, 2007, 2:00 P.M.* at *the Conference Room, 2nd Floor DSWD Field Office VII.*
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before *2:00 P.M. on December 3, 2007.* All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of *Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit, or Bank Guarantee equivalent to one percent (1%) of ABC; or a Bank Guarantee which is equal to one and a half percent (1 ½%) of ABC or Surety Bond of two and a half percent (2 ½%) valid for 120 days.* Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on *December 3, 2007* at *2:00 P.M., 2nd Floor, DSWD Field Office VII, Conference Room, M.J. Cuenco corner Gen. Maxilom Avenue, Cebu City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below
9. *Request for clarification of the Bidding Documents will only be entertained by the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) until November 21, 2007.*
10. The *Department of Social Welfare and Development – Field Office VII* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

Name of Office	*Department of Social Welfare and Development – Field Office VII, Cebu City*
Name of Contact Person	*Mr. Marcial G. Fernandez or Mr. Edward P. Dapiton*
Postal Address	*DSWD Field Office VII M.J. Cuenco cor. Gen. Maxilom Avenue Cebu City, 6000*
Telephone No.	*(032) 233-0261 / 412-9908*
Fax No.	*(032) 412-9908*

A brief description of the type(s) of GOODS should be provided, including quantities, location of project, and other information necessary to enable potential bidders to decide whether or not to respond to the invitation

(Sgd.) CLARA NEMIA C. ANTIPALA
BAC Chairman

(PDI – October 11 & 18, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3rd Flr., Anderson Bldg. II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City
Telefax Nos. (049) 545-0292
October 18, 2007

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

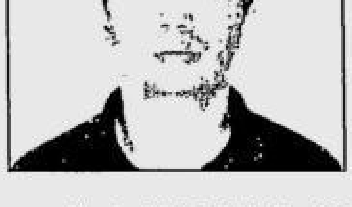
	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
1.	WYNTRON, INC. PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Byung Il Choi/ Korean	Purchasing Manager
2.	LAGUNA DAI-ICHI, INC. Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna	Mr. Takafusa Okamura/ Japanese	QA Manager
3.	YUMEX PHILIPPINES CORPORATION FCIE, Brgy. Langkaan, Dasmariñas, Cavite	Mr. Akira Arai/ Japanese	Assistant General Manager
4.	EPSON PRECISION (PHILIPPINES), INC. Lima Technology Center, Lipa City	Mr. Akihiro Oba/ Japanese	Assistant General Manager
5.	DEA HAN APPAREL, INC. Camia St., Brgy. Lodlod, Lipa City	Mr. Sueng Chuen Hong/ Korean	Plant Manager
6.	SHING HUNG PLASTICS COMPANY, INC. FPIP, Sta. Anastacia, Sto. Tomas, Batangas	Mr. Chun-Yuan Wang/ Taiwanese	Plant Manager
7.	FUJITSU COMPUTER PRODUCTS CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES CIP I, Canlubang, Calamba City	Mr. Takayuki Ueki/ Japanese	Manager, Material Procurement Section – Purchasing Department
8.	ROHM ELECTRONICS PHILIPPINES, INC. PTC-SEZ, Bo. Maduya, Carmona, Cavite	Ms. Kayoko Ishibashi/ Japanese	Japanese Coordinator
9.	MISHA TRADING EN MANAGEMENT CORP. Pacita Complex I, San Pedro, Laguna	Mr. Hassan Arabzadeh/ Iranian	Operations Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

(Sgd.) ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III
Regional Director

(PDI-October 18, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Be it known that **ALDRIN C. CRUZ**, whose picture appears above, is terminated from employment with **The Turf Company** effective September 24, 2007.

Any transaction done by the above person in behalf of The Turf Company shall be deemed invalid.

(PDI--Oct. 18, 2007)

OFW Jobs 2007 opens today

OPENING TODAY AT THE STA. LUCIA EAST GRAND Mall Entertainment Center in Cainta, Rizal, from 10am to 8pm daily until Saturday, Oct. 18-20—OFW Jobs 2007: A Grand Recruitment and Livelihood Fair banners thousands of job opportunities in healthcare, construction, engineering, IT, telecoms, hospitality, education, and a lot more, all for overseas employment.

Expecting over 15,000 OFW wannabes visiting the 3-day job fair, EventWorx Company (organizer of the event) partners with PLDT MyDSL and PLDT Budget Card to set up "OFW Telethon," a mini contact center to be manned by POEA licensed recruiters based in the event, basically to answer phone-in questions from interested jobseekers, in an effort to guide them through the entire recruitment process, pre-employment requirements, available job opportunities, and various other relevant information.

Supported by the Philippine Association of Service Exporters, Inc. (PASEI), the event will have, among its participants, Adman Human Resources, Werr Corporation International, Strategic International Manpower Services, Prime Stars International Promotion Agency, Krona International Service Systems, Inc., Centaur International Manpower Services, Inc., Corporate Visions, Inc., Unijobs International Manpower Services Corporation, Tai-Fil Manpower Services Corporation, Venture Management Systems International Corporation, Sehwani Manpower Corporation International, Archway International & Marketing Services, Inc., Acerjem Manpower Agency, Primeworld Manpower Agency, Mabuhay Personnel & Management Services, Career Planners Specialists, and many others.

OFW Jobs 2007: A Grand Recruitment and Livelihood Fair is being sponsored by WorkAbroad.ph, PLDT MyDSL, PLDT Budget Card, Alaxan FR, Informatics Cainta Campus, The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inquirer Libre, Inquirer Job Market, Manila Times, Clickthecity.com, PinoyExchange.com, Trabaho.com, CareerCare.com.ph, and 91.5 Energy FM Radio, recognized by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA).

For job openings and other inquiries, visit www.ofwjobs2007.com, or call the "OFW Telethon" at telephone numbers: 681-2686, 682-4047, 647-0862, 647-1157, 647-1334, 647-1596, 647-4127, 647-4379, 647-4538, 647-4639, and 647-4794.

A Company highly successful in marketing unique and exciting products from all over the world is looking for:

SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR

- Graduate of any 4-year course, preferably in Business Admin
- With Experience in Special Events/ Concerts/Promotions
- Computer literate on Word,Excel,Powerpoint
- Above average English communication & presentation skills

VIDEO RECORDING OPERATORS

- At least 2 years college education
- Good singing ability
- Basic knowledge in computer operation
- Experience in retailing is welcome

Send your resumé to **jobs@nexstarfx.com**

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROCUREMENT SERVICE

Room 507-508, 5th Floor Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines
Website: http://www.deped.gov.ph; e-mail: deped_procurementservice@yahoo.com.ph
Direct Line: 636-65-43 / Telefax: 636-65-42, 633-93-43 Trunk Line: 632-13-61 Locals: 2085/2115

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Republic of the Philippines
Re-bid of Printing (from Camera-ready Materials) and Delivery of Textbooks and
Teacher's Manuals in English to Public Elementary School Districts
Loan No. NPSBE 7393-PH
IFB No. 1-2007-TX-TM-ENG

1. This Invitation for Bids follow the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in Development Business issue no 686 of September 16, 2006.

2 The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) toward the costs of National Program Support for Basic Education (NPSBE). It intends to apply part of the proceeds of these loans to payments under the Contract for Re-bid of Printing (from Camera-ready Materials) and Delivery of Textbooks and Teacher's Manuals in English to Public Elementary School Districts.

3. The Department of Education (DepED) now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for printing from camera-ready-materials and delivery of textbooks and teacher's manuals indicated below to selected Public Elementary School Districts nationwide.

Lot No.	Subject & Grade Level	TOTAL (in copies)		ZONE 1		ZONE 2		ZONE 3		ZONE 4	
		TX	TM	TX	TM	TX	TM	TX	TM	TX	TM
1	English 1	2,713,241	78,621	507,618	13,012	840,528	24,062	570,382	18,620	794,748	23,016
2	English 2	2,378,702	66,972	453,660	12,067	726,612	21,309	474,430	15,900	820,001	18,006
3	English 3-L	2,125,000	62,369	436,251	12,349	586,117	20,109	448,624	12,905	654,008	16,016
	English 3-R	2,125,000	-	436,251	-	586,117	-	448,624	-	654,008	-
4	English 4-L	2,054,305	60,271	420,058	12,031	668,402	19,732	436,778	12,613	519,167	16,005
	English 4-R	2,054,305	-	420,058	-	668,402	-	436,778	-	519,167	-
5	English 5-L	1,952,978	55,105	417,763	11,303	643,749	18,003	414,885	11,194	476,601	14,550
	English 5-R	1,952,978	-	417,763	-	643,749	-	414,885	-	476,601	-
6	English 6-L	1,827,052	53,403	400,520	11,000	604,355	18,014	390,241	10,727	432,027	13,662
	English 6-R	1,827,052	-	400,520	-	604,355	-	390,241	-	432,027	-
Grand Total		20,009,663	375,742	4,330,667	73,622	6,772,363	122,270	4,424,196	78,075	5,382,415	102,066

Estimated Printing and Delivery Completion Period 150 calendar days. Indicative Printing and Delivery Dates: March to July 2008

Interested suppliers should have been in operation for a minimum of three years prior to the bid submission date, and an important part of their business must be in the manufacturing of printed and bound education materials, or as consolidators of educational materials.

4 Bidding will be conducted through International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.

5 Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement Service, DepED, Bids and Awards Committee Chairperson, with e-mail deped_procurementservice@yahoo.com.ph and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph and www.procurementservice.org or call DepED-PS at telephone nos. (632) 636-65-43, 633-9343 or fax no. 636-65-42.

6 Qualification requirements include: *technical, financial, legal and other requirement* such as having successfully completed minimum of 2 similar contracts similar in size and scope in the last 5 years, demonstrate available cash flow arrangement equivalent to at least 75% of the amount of the proposed contract, valid business license, and list of printing and packing equipment. A margin of preference shall be granted to Textbooks manufactured in Purchaser's country for purposes of bid price comparison only. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.

7 A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders upon submission of a written Application to the address below and payment of a non refundable fee in the amount of Php4,500.00 or US$85.00. The method of payment will be in cash, cashier's check or manager's check.

8 A pre-bid conference shall be conducted on October 31, 2007, 10:00 a.m., at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines.

9 Bids must be submitted to the address below at or before 10:00 a.m. on November 29, 2007. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount equivalent to at least 2.5% of the bid price, in Philippine Peso or in any freely convertible currency of eligible countries in the form provided in the Bid Data Sheet and/or Section IV, Bidding Forms.

10. The addresses referred to are:

1 For obtaining information and purchasing the Bidding Documents
Procurement Service
Department of Education
Room 508, 5th Floor
Mabini Building, DepED Complex
Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
Philippines 1600
e-mail: **deped_procurementservice@yahoo.com.ph**

2 For Submission and Opening of Bids
The Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
Department of Education
Bulwagan ng Karunungan
Rizal I Building, DepED Complex
Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
Philippines 1600

11 DepED-BAC in consultation with the End-user, reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) TEODOSIO C. SANGIL, JR.
Undersecretary and Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI–Oct. 18, 2007)

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENT

Filing of Certificates of Candidacy for the

BARANGAY and SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS

starts September 29 up to October 18, 2007 *(excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays)* **from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m** *(except on the last day, when offices will be open up to 12:00 midnight)* at the Office of the Election Officer of the concerned city/municipality.

Education and Information Department
525-9294 * 525-9301 * 527-0821 * 527-5574

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROCUREMENT SERVICE

Room 507-508, 5th Floor Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines
Website: http://www.deped.gov.ph; e-mail: deped_procurementservice@yahoo.com.ph
Direct Line: 636-65-43 / Telefax: 636-65-42, 633-93-43 • Trunk Line: 632-13-61 Locals: 2085/2115

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
(re-bid)

The DepED-Bids and Awards Committee (DepED-BAC) invites eligible bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Printing (from camera-ready materials) and Delivery of High School Science and Technology (HSST) II to IV Textbooks and Teacher's Guides to public schools nationwide indicated below.

Lot No.	Subject & Year Level	TOTAL (IN COPIES)		ZONE 1		ZONE 2		ZONE 3		ZONE 5	
		TX	TM	TX	TM	TX	TM	TX	TM	TX	TM
1	HSST II	1,055,294	30,221	260,218	7,844	409,618	11,455	180,354	4,671	205,104	6,251
2	HSST III	1,114,376	31,723	270,076	8,091	430,834	12,019	197,563	5,079	215,903	6,534
3	HSST IV	514,124	11,626	125,010	2,756	198,532	4,384	88,486	2,049	102,096	2,437

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is **193,015,480.00** broken down as follows: Php75,986,050.00 for Lot 1, Php80,226,930.00 for Lot 2, and Php36,802,500.00 for Lot 3. Source of funds is GOP.

Bids received that exceed the ABC per lot shall be rejected. Evaluation and award shall be on a per lot (title) basis.

Interested suppliers should have been in operation for a minimum of three (3) years prior to the bid submission date, an important part of their business must be in the manufacturing of printed and bound materials, or as consolidators of educational materials, and must have a largest single completed contract within the last three (3) years or current year similar to the contract to be bid, the value of which must be at least equal to 50% of the approved budget for the contract.

Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interests or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar right or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act (C.A. 138). The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instructions to Bidders of the Bidding Documents. Information is also available at **http://www.deped.gov.ph** or **www.procurementservice.org** or call DepED-Procurement Service at telephone no. (632)636-65-43 or fax no. 636-65-42.

The DepED-BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **October 24, 2007 at 10:00 AM.** The deadline for submission and opening of bids shall be on **November 19, 2007 at 10:00 AM.** The **pre-bid conference, receipt, and opening of bids shall be conducted at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I** Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.

The Bidding Documents shall be available at the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, starting October 1, 2007 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **PhP 5,000.00** in cash to the DepED Cashier.

DepED-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) TEODOSIO C. SANGIL, JR.
Undersecretary and BAC Chairperson

(PDI – October 18, 2007)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **ENTREX, INC.** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI - October 4 – 24, 2007)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **Liberty Aviation Corporation** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI – October 4 – 24, 2007)

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Makati: 892-5578;
811-4361; 811-4370
Kalaw: 523-5570
loc. 115 or 116
Megamall: 635-0219;
635-0220

AMERICA IS JUST A SLEEP AWAY

N2SLEEP DIAGNOSTICS INC., IS INVITING EVERYONE TO ATTEND A JOB PLACEMENT FORUM CONDUCTED BY A US EMPLOYER FOR SLEEP TECHNOLOGISTS ON OCTOBER 20, 2007, SATURDAY AT 1PM. FOR MORE INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL 726-3002, 725-9056, 726-3425.

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of KALINGA
CITY of TABUK

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that ABNER L. SAMBAT has filed with this office a petition for change of first name from NOEL to ABNER in the birth certificate of NOEL LACAMBRA SAMBAT who was born on June 21, 1955 at Peñablanca, Cagayan and whose parents are Socrates Sambat and Natividad Lacambra.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this office not later than 15 days upon publication.

(Sgd.) MA. LOURDES P. BAYANGAN
City Civil Registrar

(PDI–Oct 18, 2007)

People, Events & Products

BITS Clips

IIEE 32nd Annual Nat'l Convention and Expo '07

THE INSTITUTE OF INTEGRATED ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS OF THE PHILIPPINES Inc (IIEE) is holding the biggest gathering of electrical practitioners in the country for its 32nd Annual National Convention on Nov. 6 to 10, at the SM X Convention Center, SM Central Business Park, Pasay City. Carrying the Institute's 2007 theme: "Global Partner in Electric Power and Reform Advocacies," this event aims to fulfill IIEE's commitment to be a forum for advocacies in the power and energy sector. Further, the participation of international speakers and exhibitors in this five-day gathering will give delegates and viewers additional information about the latest developments that can be applied in their companies and workplaces. Among the highlights of the 32nd Annual National Convention is the 3E XPO 2007, the only exposition in the Philippines converging the electrical, electronics and energy (3E) sectors under one grand venue. Delegates and viewers will witness an array of companies showcasing their products and services, including organizations engaged in the 3E sectors, and endless possibilities to create and add more value in their companies and industries. The Championship Competition for the Council of Student Chapters Quiz Show and Math Wizard will coincide with the Annual National Convention. The Power Forum, designed to gather significant views from the government and industry and energy sector, would focus on discussions pertaining to Epira Law Amendments, Renewable Energy Bill, and Nuclear Power. Lectures on Sources of Renewable Energy, Demand Side Management, Philippine Grid Code, and Philippine Distribution Code are also included in the Power Forum program. The Fellowship Night will feature winners from the nine regions of the Institute to compete for the title, IIEE Singing Idol. For other contents needed, call 722-7383 local 109. Look for Myra.

Gardenia's medical mission in Minalin, Pampanga

GARDENIA BAKERIES PHILIPPINES INC, THROUGH THE INITIATIVE OF THE Sto. Rosario, Minalin Brgy. Captain Melchor Pingol, conducted a medical and dental mission recently as part of its effort to provide invaluable assistance to five flood affected Barangays of Minalin, Pampanga. Despite heavy rains and a typhoon signal no 2 caused by TD Hanna, about 300 medical and dental patients went to Sto. Rosario High School to be able to take advantage of the free medical and dental assistance. Free medicines, vitamins and Gardenia breads were also distributed to beneficiaries. The medical team brought by Gardenia was composed of 31 medical practitioners, dentists, and nurses from the University of Perpetual Help System Laguna and the Calamba Medical Center. The medical and dental relief effort was made more successful with the donation of needed medicines and vitamins from generous partners in the pharmaceutical industry such as Blue Sky Trading Company, Boehringer Ingelheim (Phil) Inc, Integrated Pharmaceutical Inc, Pharex Health Corp, and Wyeth Philippines.

Bewitched at Discovery Suites

YOU DON'T HAVE TO CONJURE MAGICAL SPELLS AND ENCHANTMENTS to fully enjoy the Halloween season. On Saturday, Oct. 27, Discovery Suites casts a spell on kids and kids-at-heart for the most bewitching Halloween party. On a bright and sunny Saturday, kids will be treated to pure magic and games, candies, prizes and hallow surprises. Your little witches and warlocks will surely delight in two magic shows courtesy of Viva Video Inc and several trick or treat stations. Prizes await those who come in the scariest, cutest, or best witch and warlock costumes. Tickets for Discovery Suites' "Bewitched at Discovery Suites" are at P395 per person, inclusive of a hearty kiddie buffet at Restaurant 5. Urban Tykes members will be given a ten percent discount on ticket price. Urban Tykes IDs must be presented. Tickets are available on at the Front Office and at Restaurant 5. Only limited slots are available. Attendees will be given loot bags, inclusive of videos from Viva Video Inc, Jelly Belly, URC, Biogesic for Kids, and Country Style & Deli. Registration to the Bewitched event starts at 9 a.m. Opting for a quick escape during this long Halloween holiday? Discovery Suites offers a three-night Package, for only P8,888++ for a Junior Suite and P9,999++ for a One Bedroom Suite, inclusive of buffet breakfast for two at the Serendipity Lounge. For room reservations, call (63 2) 683-8396/683-8269/683-8222. Discovery Suites is located at 25 ADB Ave, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

The 43rd Anvil Awards is on!

THE 43RD ANVIL AWARDS, SPONSORED ANNUALLY BY THE PUBLIC Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP), has been officially launched, kicking off the search for the outstanding PR programs for 2006-2007. The Anvil, the most highly regarded and widely participated in awards event in public relations in the country, is divided into two categories: PR programs and PR Tools, further divided into various sub-categories, capped by the Grand Anvil Awards. Anvil Awards contenders have until Oct. 31, to submit their entries to the Anvil Awards Committee, at No. 20-B, San Mateo Street, Barrio Kapitolyo, Pasig City. The Anvil Awards rules may be downloaded from PRSP's website, http://www.prsp.org.ph, or obtained from the Secretariat through tel. nos. 638-0010 or 638-0012.

St. Luke's cardiologist speaks at TCT symposium

DR. FABIO ENRIQUE BARDALES POSAS, CHIEF OF THE CARDIOVASCULAR Intervention Section of St. Luke's Medical Center, has been invited to be one of the international faculty of the 19th Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics (TCT) symposium in Washington, DC from Oct. 20 to 25. Sponsored by the Cardiovascular Research Foundation, TCT is the world's premier conference in interventional cardiology, endovascular medicine and structural heart disease, where the latest trends, research findings, and techniques are disseminated to practicing physicians from around the world. Dr. Posas will be speaking about the management and recognition of interventional complications and part of case review with the experts titled "My Worst Complications: Coronary Intervention I." For more information about the Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics (TCT) symposium, log on to www.tct2007.com.

All set for the 2007 Honda Media Challenge

YEAR 2007 HONDA MEDIA CHALLENGE PROMISES ANOTHER SEASON of thrill and excitement under a new competition format. Moving on from circuit racing, this year's series showcase skills in car handling and precision driving in an Autokhana competition format. Autokhana combines autocross and gymkhana concepts wherein drivers are each tasked to navigate a complex course marked by traffic cones. Obstacles consist of slaloms, figure 8s and timed parking boxes. The competition's ultimate goal is to get through the course at the fastest time with the least amount of mistakes. A total of eleven (11) teams from different media outfits signed up for the challenge, each team composed of three rookie drivers. Rookie drivers are required to attend a one-day race clinic to be versed with proper seat position, steering techniques, footwork, car control, cornering and balance. Veteran racers are to compete as individuals and show-off their polished driving skills. Competing participants include members from Businessworld, Philippine Star, Manila Bulletin, Business Mirror, Manila Standard Today, Top Gear, C! Magazine, Gadgets, AutoReview, Motoring Today, Stoplight TV, DZRH, DZMM, DWIZ, DZXL, Wave 89.1, NU 107 and autoindustriya.com. Joining the excitement are Honda executives racing under two Honda teams and members of Honda Club of the Philippines. Aside from spending a day of fun and relaxation with friends from the media, Honda Media Challenge aims to exhibit durability, ease of handling and high quality performance of Honda vehicles. Featured in this year's series is the 1.5 Honda Jazz. Equipped with the 1.5 VTEC engine, the Honda Jazz delivers powerful performance at all engine speeds by varying the timing and lifting of valves. Nimble and spirited qualities of the Jazz VTEC make it the perfect vehicle for the competition. Official competition rounds for the 9th season of Honda Media Challenge are slated on Nov. 10, Nov. 24 and Dec. 08 at the FTI Complex grounds in Taguig.

Win big prizes in Bingo for Bantay Bata 163

WIN AS MUCH AS P1.5M AND OTHER BIG PRIZES IN PAGCOR'S 2007 BINgo Fiesta for Bantay Bata 163 on Oct. 28 at the World Trade Center on Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. This charity bingo will be done for a good cause, helping Bantay Bata 163's note-worthy projects on its 10th year milestone. A well-loved game by Filipinos, bingo is a popular past-time where randomly-selected numbers are drawn and players match those numbers to those appearing on their bingo cards. The first person to have a card where the drawn numbers form a specified pattern is the winner and calls out the word "Bingo!!!" Net proceeds from Pagcor's charity bingo will be donated for the benefit of Bantay Bata 163, one of the key programs of the ABS-CBN Foundation Inc that aims for the protection and welfare of the Filipino child and family. The major prizes for the Bingo Fiesta are a hefty P1.5M in the jackpot 10th game and P1M in the 5th game. Also at stake is P100,000 each for the other games. Everyone is invited to be part of this fun charity bingo, with tickets now being sold at P1,500 each (inclusive of 4-on-10up bingo cards). Proceeds raised will help fund Bantay Bata 163's current projects, including the Children's Village, a haven for rescued children in Norzagaray, Bulacan; improvement of the 24-hour hotline's telecommunications system; family and community strengthening in various sites; and medical and educational assistance. Get your tickets now for this noble undertaking before they run out! To avail of tickets or to get more details, call China or Freda at 411-0856, 925-5255, 411-6625, 925-5268, 922-2163, 0926-2555555, or 163.

BPI A World of Compliments promo extended

THE BPI A WORLD OF COMPLIMENTS PROMO HAS BEEN EXTENDED until Dec. 31, and BPI is inviting all its customers to keep on growing their deposits so they can join the final raffle draw to be held in January 2008. Prizes at stake include a 5-day vacation trip for two to Palawan and a 5-day vacation trip for four to the island of Maldives with US$1,000 pocket money. To join the promo, depositors need to open or maintain any BPI Peso or Foreign Currency Savings, Checking or Time Deposit. Every P5,000 deposit in a savings or checking account or every P25,000 increase in a time deposit entitles depositor to a raffle entry. On top of that, a minimum fresh fund deposit of P300,000 entitles depositors to receive premium items like home appliances, gadgets, Store Specialists Inc GCs and travel accessories. For more information call 89-100 or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com. The promo will run from Feb. 1 to Dec. 31.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
Securities and Exchange Commission
SEC Bldg. EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City

SEC Memorandum Circular No. 4
Series of 2007.

TO (1) Pre-Need Corporations
(2) Entities Authorized to Engage in Trust Operations and Act as Trustee for Pre-Need Corporations

SUBJECT . Guidelines on the Management of the Trust Fund of Pre-Need Corporations

Section 1. Mandate and Objectives

Pursuant to Section 16 and 74 of Republic Act No. 8799, otherwise known as the Secrities Regulation Code (SRC), the Securities and Exchange Commission (Commission) issues these Guidelines to Pre-Need Corporations and entities authorized to engage in trust operations and act as Trustee for Pre-Need Corporations:

a) to govern the management and administration of Trust Funds established for the payment of Pre-Need Benefits under plan contracts; and

b) to provide an updated and more flexible choice of investments for the Trust Fund subject to rules and regulations that would ensure prudent investment management and protection of the interests of the Planholders.

Section 2. Scope

These Guidelines shall cover the following subjects:

a) Trust Fund
b) Trust Agreement
c) Responsibilities of the Trustee
d) Investments of the Trust Fund
e) Recognition and Measurement of Trust Fund Assets and Liabilities
f) Liquidity Reserve Fund
g) Reportorial Requirements
h) Time of Making Deposits to the Trust Fund
i) Transitory Provisions
j) Sanctions

Section 3. Definition of Terms

Whenever used in these Guidelines, the following terms shall have the respective meanings hereafter set forth or indicated unless the context requires otherwise;

a) **Best execution** refers to the obligation of the Trustee to use reasonable diligence in ascertaining the best available price for the investment and, to buy or sell at a price so that the resultant price is as favorable as possible to the Trust Fund under prevailing market conditions.

b) **Collective Investment Schemes (CIS)** refer to any arrangement whereby funds are pooled together for the purpose of investing in a portfolio of securities or other financial assets.

c) **Delinquent Plant** refers to a Pre-Need Plan where any due installment has been unpaid.

d) **Exchange** refers to an organized marketplace or facility that brings together buyers and sellers and executes trades of securities and/or commodities.

e) **In Force Plan** refers to a Pre-Need Plan for which the Pre-Need Corporation has an outstanding obligation, either for the (i) delivery of Pre-Need Benefits or (ii) payment of Termination Value

f) **Investment Strategy** refers to a method of portfolio management and asset allocation that a Trustee employs.

g) **Lapsed Plan** refers to a Delinquent Plan which has remained unpaid beyond the grace period of two (2) months from date of delinquency.

h) **Liquidity Reserve Fund** refers to a portion of the Trust Fund set aside by the Trustee to cover the Pre-Need Benefits.

i) **Pre-Need Benefits** refer to the payment of monetary consideration and/or performance of future services which the Pre-Need Corporation undertakes to deliver either to the Planholder or his beneficiary at the time of actual need or agreed maturity date, as specified in the Pre-Need Plan.

j) **Pre-Need Reserves** refer to the measure of liabilities of the Pre-Need Corporation for its In Force Plans or Lapsed Plans as of valuation date. It is set up for the Pre-Need Benefits payable by the Pre-Need Corporation as stated in the plan contract

k) **Termination Value** refers to the amount the Planholder should be paid upon surrender of the Pre-Need Plan prior to maturity or availment of full Pre-Need Benefits.

l) **Trust Agreement** refers to an instrument in writing covering the terms and conditions of the Trust.

m) **Trust Fund** refers to the fund set up from the Planholders' payments, separate and distinct from the paid-up capital of a registered Pre-Need Corporation, established with a Trustee under a Trust Agreement approved by the Commission, to pay for the Pre-Need Benefits as provided in the plan contract.

n) **Trust Fund Equity** refers to the total assets less total liabilities of the Trust Fund.

o) **Trust Investment Committee** refers to a body of the Trustee which reviews and approves transactions between trusts and/or fiduciary accounts.

p) **Trustee** refers to a trust company, trust department of a bank or an investment house that is authorized to perform trust and other fiduciary functions by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) and act as Trustee for Pre-Need Corporations.

q) **Trustor** refers to the Pre-Need Corporation.

Section 4. Trust Fund

A Trust Fund shall be separately established for each type of plan with a trust company, trust department of a bank or an investment house authorized to perform trust and other fiduciary functions by the BSP

Section 5. Trust Agreement

The proposed Trust Agreement, for each type of plan, shall be submitted by the concerned Pre-Need Corporation to the Commission for approval before execution and shall contain and/or state, among other things, the following provisions:

a) The Trust Fund shall be under the management and control of the Trustee;

b) Investment powers of the Trustee with respect to the Trust Fund;

c) The required monthly regular contributions to the Trust Fund shall be deposited and credited to the Trust Fund account in accordance with Section 11 of these Guidelines;

d) Investments, loans or credit accommodations to directors, officers, stockholders and related interests (DOSRI) of the Pre-Need Corporation and the Trustee are prohibited unless otherwise allowed by these Guidelines or the Commission:

e) Withdrawals and payments from the Trust Fund;

f) Recognition and measurement of Trust Fund assets and liabilities:

g) Continuing authorization for the Commission's duly authorized representative/s to examine and verify the Trust Fund;

h) Undertaking to abide by the rules and regulations and investment guidelines of the Commission relating to the Trust Fund;

i) Disclosure and submission within forty eight (48) hours from the date of execution of any material agreement between the Trustor and the Trustee other than the Trust Agreement:

j) Prior notice by the Trustee to, and, approval by, the Commission of amendments to or termination of the Trust Agreement;

k) Contractual liability of the Trustee to the Trustor in case of substantial losses to the Trust Fund as a result of fraud, gross negligence or evident bad faith; and

l) Undertaking by the Trustee to submit to the Commission such other data or information as may be required by the latter

Section 6. Responsibilities of the Trustee

The Trust Fund, inclusive of earnings, shall be administered and managed by the Trustee for the protection of the Planholders. The Trustee shall exercise the skill, care and diligence that a prudent man acting in the same capacity would give under the circumstances, guided by sound investment principles, and taking into consideration, among other things, the following:

a) preservation of capital
b) risk diversification
c) growth of investment portfolio.

Section 7. Investments of the Trust Fund

7.1 To ensure the liquidity of the Trust Fund and to meet the Pre-Need Reserves essential to the delivery of the Pre-Need Benefits under the plan contract, Trustees are allowed to invest the Trust Fund in the following:

a) ***Securities***

i) Evidence of indebtedness of the Republic of the Philippines and any other evidence of indebtedness or obligations the servicing and repayment of which are fully guaranteed by the Republic of the Philippines (ROP), such as, but not limited to, treasury bills, fixed rate treasury notes, retail treasury bonds, denominated either in Philippine or in foreign currency, and foreign currency linked notes

ii) Loans, bonds or other evidence of indebtedness issued by government agencies/entities and government owned and controlled corporations, and guaranteed by the Republic of the Philippines as to the payment of the principal and the interest.

iii) Bonds and other evidence of indebtedness issued by:

iii.1) the government of any foreign country with which the Philippines maintains diplomatic relations, with a credit rating obtained from a reputable international credit rating agency or a credit rating agency acceptable to the Commission that is at least two (2) notches higher than that of ROP bonds, and

iii.2) supranationals (or international organizations whose membership transcends national boundaries or interests, e.g. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Asian Development Bank).

iv) Corporate bonds of privately-owned domestic corporations duly registered with the Commission with a current credit rating[1] of at least "A" by an accredited Philippine rating agency.

v) Corporate bonds registered in another country with a credit rating obtained from a reputable international credit rating agency that is at least two (2) notches higher than that of ROP bonds.

vi) Commercial papers duly registered with the Commission with an investment grade credit rating based on the rating scale of an accredited Philippine rating agency at the time of investment.

vii) Equities listed on a local Stock Exchange.

These shall include stocks issued by companies that are financially stable, actively traded, possess good track record of growth and have declared dividends for the past three (3) years.

The Trustee shall in no case be allowed to fully invest the Trust Fund in a single issue.

viii) Savings and/or time deposits (peso or foreign currency denominated) maintained with a universal, commercial or thrift bank that passed the Trustee's investment review process.

ix) Loans to private corporations that passed the Trustee's investment review process subject to the following guidelines:

ix.1) If classified as held-to-maturity, the remaining term to maturity shall not exceed ten (10) years unless matched to a liability for a batch of maturing benefits;

ix.2) If collateralized, the borrower shall have a credit rating of at least "BAA" or "Average" by an accredited Philippine rating agency;

ix.2.1) The loan shall be fully secured by any of the following:

ix.2.1.1) Assignment of deposits maintained with universal, commercial or thrift banks other than the Trustee's own bank proper provided the financial institution passed the Trustee's investment review process;

ix.2.1.2) Standby letters of credit for the term of the loan issued by a universal or commercial bank subject to the requirements under Sections 7.1(a)(viii) and 7.2(b);

ix.2.1.3) Real estate mortgage up to the extent of seventy five percent (75%) of the appraised value of the respective real estate security plus sixty percent (60%) of the appraised value of the insured improvements at the time the loan was granted.

The property shall be covered by an Original/ Transfer Certificate of Title (OCT/TCT) registered in the name of the mortgagor and free from liens and encumbrances;

ix.2.1.4) Mortgage Trust Indenture (MTI) and Mortgage Participation Certificates (MPCs);

ix.2.2) For loans guaranteed by a parent company, the latter shall have had net profitable operations for the past three (3) consecutive years or have a credit rating of at least "BAA" or its equivalent by an accredited Philippine rating agency.

If an updated independent third party rating is not available, the parent company must have an equivalent credit rating based on the Trustee's internal rating system.

ix.3) If not collateralized but covered by a negative pledge of the borrower not to permit its properties to be mortgaged to creditors, the borrower corporation shall have obtained a current credit rating of at least "A" or an equivalent rating of "Above Average".

Furthermore, it must show profitable operations for the past three (3) consecutive years preceding the grant of the loan and shall have no accumulated capital deficit immediately preceding the grant of the loan

x) Senior, subordinated or hybrid debt securities issued by banks other than the Trustee's own bank proper, classified under Tier 1 or Tier 2 in its capital structure provided that the issuer has an investment grade credit rating based on the rating scale of an accredited Philippine rating agency or a rating of at least satisfactory from the BSP at the time of investment.

If an independent third party rating is not available or is not updated, the investment must have an equivalent credit rating based on the Trustee's internal rating system.

b) Collective Investment Schemes (CIS)

i) CIS duly registered with the Commission

Allowable CIS must have a track record of performance at par with or above the median performance of pooled funds in the same category

New CIS may be allowed provided that its fund manager has at least a three (3) year track record in managing pooled funds

ii) Offshore Mutual Funds with positive fund performance as against their benchmark index for the past three (3) consecutive years.

The maximum exposure to CIS shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the total Trust Fund equity.

c) Real Estate

Income generating commercial and residential real estate properties, unless otherwise disallowed by the Commission.

These shall include real estate properties located in strategic areas of cities and first class municipalities. The OCT/TCT shall be in the name of the owner, free from liens and encumbrances and shall be transferred in the name of the Trustee in trust for the planholders or the Trust Agreement shall be annotated on the OCT/TCT within ninety (90) days from the date of investment or the execution of the Trust Agreement. The original copy of the OCT/TCT shall be placed in the possession of the trustee.

The real estate properties shall be appraised every three (3) years by a licensed real estate appraiser duly accredited by the Commission to reflect the increase or decrease in their value. The appraisal increment or decrement shall be disclosed in the books of the Trust Fund. The said increment shall not be used either to cover up the required monthly contribution to the Trust Fund or any deficiency in the Trust Fund as of the end of actuarial valuation date.

The total recorded value of the real estate investment shall not exceed fifteen percent (15%) of the total Trust Fund equity.

d) Planholder Loans

This investment shall be subject to the following conditions:

i.) The amount to be invested shall not exceed five percent (5%) of the total Trust Fund equity;

ii.) The loan amortizations collected by Pre-Need Corporations shall not be used directly to fund the payment of benefits for maturing obligations but shall be deposited to the Trust Fund not later than two (2) working days from receipt;

iii.) The terms and conditions of the loan agreement shall be made known to the planholders; and

iv.) The loan agreement shall comply with the provisions of the Truth in Lending Act.

7.2 Notwithstanding the prohibition against transactions with directors, officers, stockholders and related interests (DOSRI) of the Trustor or the Trustee, the Trustee may invest in the following outlets:

a) Equities of companies related to the Trustee that are listed on a local Stock Exchange.

These shall include stocks issued by companies that are financially stable, actively traded, possess good track record of growth and have declared dividends for the past three (3) years.

The Trustee shall in no case be allowed to fully invest the Trust Fund in a single issue.

The foregoing investment may subsequently be disallowed by the Commission, and, where proper, subject the Trustee to sanctions for gross violation of prudential standards.

b) Savings and/or time deposits with the trustee's own bank proper, whether it be universal, commercial or thrift bank, provided it has a rating of at least satisfactory as of the last examination by the BSP and prior approval of the Commission is secured.

7.3 Except for investments under Section 7.1(a)(i) hereof, records of analyses supporting the investments and records of the Trust Investment Committee's approval pertaining to the said investments shall be maintained and made available to the Commission upon request.

The said records, when ordered submitted by the Commission, shall be certified by a responsible officer of the Trustee.

To show proof of best execution, the Trustee shall maintain records or quotes from two (2) alternative providers, whenever applicable, or data from any reputable source that can best provide a basis for the asset's fair value. Such records shall be made available to the Commission upon request.

Section 8. Recognition and Measurement of Trust Fund Assets and Liabilities

The Trust Fund Assets and Liabilities shall be recognized in accordance with the provisions of the effective Philippine Accounting Standards (PAS) and Philippine Financial Reporting Standards (PFRS) and their interpretations, which include the following:

a) PAS 39 for Financial Instruments
b) PAS 40 for Investment Property

Section 9. Liquidity Reserve Fund

No less than twenty percent (20%) of the net value of the Trust Fund assets per type of plan shall be set aside as a liquidity reserve to cover the Pre-Need Benefits due to Planholders. For this purpose, the Pre-Need Corporation shall submit to the Trustee and to the Commission a list of fully paid plans maturing during the year on or before the fifteenth (15th) day of the first month of the fiscal year of the Pre-Need Corporation. Furthermore, the Pre-Need Corporation shall submit to the Commission a three-year cash flow projection on how to fund these benefit obligations from its liquid Trust Fund assets on an annual basis on or before the end of the second month of the fiscal year of the Pre-Need Corporation

The Liquidity Reserve Fund shall consist of cash or assets in the Trust Fund that are easily convertible to cash. The following shall qualify as investments for the Liquidity Reserve Fund:

a) Evidence of indebtedness of the Republic of the Philippines and other evidence of indebtedness or obligations, the servicing and repayment of which are fully guaranteed by the Republic of the Philippines such as, but not limited to, treasury bills, reverse repurchase agreements (RRP) and special deposit accounts (SDA):

b) Savings and/or time deposits (peso or foreign currency denominated) in accordance with Sections 7.1(a)(viii) and 7.2(b);

c) Equities listed on a local Stock Exchange.

These shall include stocks issued by companies that are financially stable, actively traded, possess good track record of growth and have declared dividends for the past three (3) years.

The Trustee shall in no case be allowed to fully invest the Trust Fund in a single issue.

Section 10. Reportorial Requirements

10.1 The Pre-Need Corporation shall publish its audited balance sheet together with the consolidated Trust Fund Balance Sheet once a year within one hundred and twenty (120) days from the end of the fiscal year in a newspaper of general circulation in the city/province where the Pre-Need Corporation has its head office.

The details of the changes in equity, such as income or loss for the period, retained earnings, beginning and ending, shall be provided in the Equity Section of the Balance Sheet of the Pre-Need Corporation. Earnings from corporate assets shall be segregated from the Accumulated Income of the Trust Fund

A copy of such statement as published, together with the publisher's certificate, shall be submitted to the Commission within two (2) working days after said publication

10.2 An Annual Investment Strategy shall be submitted by the Trustee to the Commission on or before the end of the second month of the fiscal year of the Pre-Need Corporation, showing the allocation of the proposed investment for the next three (3) years.

10.3 A monthly report of the Trust Fund shall be submitted by the Trustee to the Trustor and the Commission within ten (10) days after the end of each month for reconciliation purposes of the Trustor and the Commission and shall include the following:

a) Balance Sheet

The equity portion of the Trust Fund Balance Sheet shall state the following:

i) Contributions and withdrawals for the reporting period shall be segregated from the prior year's accumulated figures

ii) Retained earnings for the reporting period shall be segregated from the prior year's accumulated surplus.

b) An Income Statement, three (3) column report to include:

i) Month to Date income with equivalent ROI
ii) Year to Date income with equivalent ROI

c) Return of Investment (ROI) Computation Schedule

i) For the Month
ii) Year to Date

The total portfolio shall be computed net of taxes and fees and inclusive of mark-to-market gains and losses.

The following shall be the standard formula for computing return on investment:

$$ROI = \left[\left(1 + \frac{(EndingMV - BegMV) - (Cont - With)}{BegMV + (WtdCont - WtdWithd)}\right)^{\frac{365}{n}} - 1\right]$$

WHERE:

EndingMV = Ending Market Value
BegMV = Beginning Market Value
Cont = Contributions for the period
With = Withdrawals for the period
n = Number of days for the period where ROI is computed
WidCont = Sum of contributions which are weighted based on the number of days these were held in the fund.
WidWithd Sum of withdrawals which are given weights based on the number of days these were held in the fund for the period involved

d) Schedule of Earning Assets including Mark-to-Market (M-T-M) Gains and Losses as of each ROI reporting date in item (c) above

e) Special Transactions Report which lists transactions, outstanding balances and pertinent investment details on DOSRI investments

f) Investment Activity Report/Summary of Transactions Schedule

g) Portfolio analysis schedule

h) Trustee's Certificate on Trust Fund Balance

i) Summary of accounting policies on each significant trust fund assets and liabilities. If there would be no change in the policies for the succeeding months, a mere statement of consistent application would suffice

j) Explanatory or disclosure notes on significant items as required under PAS 32, 39, 40 and PFRS 7

k) Such other statements and schedules as may be reasonably requested by the trustor.

10.4 Monthly report on remittance to the Trustee of loan amortizations collected, pursuant to Section 7.1(d), from the planholders by the Pre-Need Corporation together with the Certified True Copies of Official Receipts, as proof of deposit to the Trust Fund, to be submitted not later than ten (10) days after the end of each reference month.

Section 11. Time of Making Deposits to the Trust Fund

Trust Fund deposits which shall be sourced from collections of payments from plans sold either in cash or installment for the first half of the month, shall be made not later than three (3) working days after the end of the first half of the current month, and for collections made on the second half, not later than three (3) working days following the end of the reference month.

If the Commission discovers a deficiency in the Trust Fund, it shall give notice of its finding to the Pre-Need Corporation and require it to make additional deposits to the Trust Fund. The Pre-Need Corporation shall have thirty (30) days from receipt of notice, or, submission of the actuarial valuation report, whichever is earlier, to make the necessary deposit to correct the deficiency.

Any excess in the Trust Fund of each plan shall not be credited to future deposit requirements, or transferred from one type of plan to another

Section 12. Transitory Provisions

12.1 Within one (1) year from the effectivity of these Guidelines, the following investments of the Trust Fund must be divested, unless otherwise allowed by the Commission:

a) Unlisted shares of stock,
b) Excess from the prescribed limit of the investment portfolio allocation,
c) Non-income generating real estate properties, and
d) Other investments not allowed by these Guidelines.

Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of these Guidelines, the Trustee shall submit an inventory of the Trust Fund investments in the foregoing enumeration and a time-bound divestment program for the approval of the Commission

12.2 The Trustee shall comply with the new reportorial requirements within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of these Guidelines.

Section 13. Sanctions

Failure to comply with these Guidelines shall subject the Pre-Need Corporation and/or the Trustee, after due notice and hearing, to sanctions set forth in the Schedule of Penalties[2] attached herewith for reference and incorporated as an integral part of these Guidelines.

The payment of the assessed fines and penalties shall in no case be sourced from the Trust Fund.

Section 14. Repealing Clause

All circulars, rules and regulations or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of these Guidelines are deemed repealed, superseded or modified accordingly.

Section 15. Effectivity

These Guidelines shall be published twice in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines and shall take effect on November 1, 2007.

Issued on **27 September 2007** at EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) FE B. BARIN
Chairperson

(Sgd.) MA. JUANITA E. CUETO
Commissioner

(Sgd.) JESUS ENRIQUE G. MARTINEZ
Commissioner

(Sgd.) RAUL J. PALABRICA
Commissioner

(Sgd.) THADDEUS E. VENTURANZA
Commissioner

APPENDIX "A"

DESCRIPTION OF CREDIT RATINGS

For purposes of these Guidelines, the credit rating equivalent shall be as follows:

	Rating
INVESTMENT GRADE	
Highest Quality	Aaa or AAA
High Quality (Very Strong)	Aa or AA
Upper Medium Grade (Strong)	A
Medium Grade	Baa or BBB
NON-INVESTMENT GRADE	
Lower Medium Grade (somewhat speculative)	Ba or BB
Low Grade (speculative)	B
Poor Quality (may default)	Caa or CCC
Most Speculative	Ca or CC
No interest bearing paid or bankruptcy petition filed	C
In default	C or D

Definition of Symbols

Aaa or AAA: Smallest degree of investment risk. Interest payments are protected by a large or by an exceptionally stable margin and principal secured. While the various protective elements are likely to change, such changes as can be visualized are most unlikely to impair the fundamentally strong position of such issues.

Aa or AA: Margins of protection may not be as large as in Aaa issues. Fluctuations of protective elements may be of greater amplitude or there may be other elements present which make the long-term risk appear somewhat larger than for Aaa-rated securities.

A: With favorable investment attributes and are considered upper-medium grade obligations. Factors giving security to principal and interest are considered adequate but elements may be present which suggest a susceptibility to impairment sometime in the future.

Baa or BBB: Neither highly protected nor poorly secured. Interest payments and principal security appear adequate for the present but certain protective elements may be lacking or may be characteristically unreliable over any great length of time. Such issues lack outstanding investment characteristics and in fact have speculative characteristics as well.

Ba or BB: Judged to have speculative elements. The issuer's capability to pay for such issues cannot be considered as well assured. Often, the protection of interest and principal payments may be very moderate and thereby not well safeguarded during both good and bad times over the future.

B: Generally lacks the characteristics of a desirable investment. Assurance of interest and principal payments or maintenance of other terms of contract over any long period of time may be small.

Caa or CCC: Poor standing. High possibility of default and there may be present elements of danger with respect to principal or interest.

Ca or CC: Very poor standing. Has other marked shortcomings. The issue may be in default.

C or D: In default.

APPENDIX "B"

SCHEDULE OF PENALTIES

SEC MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 4, series of 2007.	VIOLATIONS	SANCTIONS		
		FIRST OFFENSE	SECOND OFFENSE	THIRD OFFENSE
Section 5	Failure to secure the approval of the Commission on matters relating to Trust Agreements prior to its implementation/execution	P10,000	P20,000	P30,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON BOTH THE TRUSTOR AND TRUSTEE		
Section 5(i)	Failure to disclose within the prescribed period any material agreement between the Trustor and Trustee, other than the Trust Agreement	P10,000	P20,000	P30,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON BOTH THE TRUSTOR AND TRUSTEE		
Section 5(j)	Failure to secure prior approval of the Commission on the amendment or termination of the Trust Agreement	P10,000	P20,000	P30,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON BOTH THE TRUSTOR AND TRUSTEE		
Section 7	Failure to maintain the prescribed investment limits	P20,000	P30,000	P40,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTEE		
	Failure to comply with any of the requirements for the investment of the Trust Fund	P20,000	P30,000	P40,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTEE		
Section 7.1(c)	Failure to transfer in the name of the Trustee or annotate the Trust Agreement in the OCT/TCT	P20,000	P30,000	P40,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON BOTH THE TRUSTOR AND TRUSTEE		
Section 7.1(d)	Failure to remit to the Trust Fund the loan amortization collected from Planholders	P50,000	P100,000	P150,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTOR		
Section 7.3	Refusal/Failure to furnish proof of best execution, records of analyses or other information required by the Commission	Reprimand	P10,000	P20,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTEE		
Section 8	Failure to comply with the provisions of PAS 39 and 40 in the recognition and measurement of Trust Fund	Reprimand	P10,000	P20,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTEE		
Section 9	Failure to comply with the Liquidity Reserve Fund	P20,000	P30,000	P40,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTEE		
	Non-filing/Late Filing of the list of fully paid plans maturing during the year	P10,000	P20,000	P30,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTOR		
	Non-filing/Late Filing of cash flow projection	Reprimand	P10,000	P20,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTOR		
Section 10.1	Failure to publish the Audited Financial Statement within 120 days after the end of fiscal year	P20,000	P30,000	P40,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTOR		
	Non-filing/Late Filing of the publisher's certificate	Reprimand	P10,000	P20,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTOR		
	Material Misstatement in the Report submitted to or required by the Commission	P50,000	P100,000	P150,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTOR		
	Misrepresentation or misleading statements in any report submitted to or required by the Commission	P50,000	P100,000	P150,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTOR		
Section 10.2	Non-filing/Late filing of an annual Investment Strategy	Reprimand	P10,000	P20,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTEE		
Section 10.3	Non-filing/Late filing of monthly report	Reprimand	P10,000	P20,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTEE		
	Material Misstatement in the Report submitted to or required by the Commission	P50,000	P100,000	P150,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTEE		
	Misrepresentation or misleading statements in any report submitted to or required by the Commission	P50,000	P100,000	P150,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTEE		
Section 10.4	Non-filing/Late Filing of monthly reports on remittance to the Trustee of loan amortizations collected pursuant	Reprimand	P10,000	P20,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTOR		
Section 11	Failure to deposit the required regular monthly contributions to the Trust Fund	P50,000 + P300/day of continuing violation	P100,000 + P300/day of continuing violation	P150,000 + P300/day of continuing violation
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTOR		
	Failure to deposit the required regular monthly contributions to the Trust Fund within the prescribed period	P50,000	P100,000	P150,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTOR		
	Failure to make additional deposits to the Trust Fund cover deficiencies	P50,000 + P300/day of continuing violation	P100,000 + P300/day of continuing violation	P150,000 + P300/day of continuing violation
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTOR		
	Failure to make additional deposits to the Trust Fund cover deficiencies within the prescribed period	P50,000	P100,000	P150,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTOR		
	Crediting of excess in the Trust Fund for future deposit	P50,000	P100,000	P150,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTOR		
Section 12.1	Failure to divest the ineligible investments/ failure to divest within the prescribed period	P20,000	P30,000	P40,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTEE		
	Non-Filing/Late Filing of an inventory of investments of the Trust Fund and a time-bound divestment program	Reprimand	P10,000	P20,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTEE		
Section 13	Withdrawal from the Trust Fund for the purpose of payment of assessed fines and penalties	P50,000	P100,000	P150,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE BOTH THE TRUSTOR AND TRUSTEE		

(PDI--October 18, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
Securities and Exchange Commission
SEC Bldg. EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City

SEC Memorandum Circular No. 4
Series of 2007.

TO	(1) Pre-Need Corporations (2) Entities Authorized to Engage in Trust Operations and Act as Trustee for Pre-Need Corporations
SUBJECT :	Guidelines on the Management of the Trust Fund of Pre-Need Corporations

Section 1. Mandate and Objectives

Pursuant to Section 16 and 74 of Republic Act No. 8799, otherwise known as the Secrities Regulation Code (SRC), the Securities and Exchange Commission (Commission) issues these Guidelines to Pre-Need Corporations and entities authorized to engage in trust operations and act as Trustee for Pre-Need Corporations;

a) to govern the management and administration of Trust Funds established for the payment of Pre-Need Benefits under plan contracts; and

b) to provide an updated and more flexible choice of investments for the Trust Fund subject to rules and regulations that would ensure prudent investment management and protection of the interests of the Planholders.

Section 2. Scope

These Guidelines shall cover the following subjects:

a) Trust Fund
b) Trust Agreement
c) Responsibilities of the Trustee
d) Investments of the Trust Fund
e) Recognition and Measurement of Trust Fund Assets and Liabilities
f) Liquidity Reserve Fund
g) Reportorial Requirements
h) Time of Making Deposits to the Trust Fund
i) Transitory Provisions
j) Sanctions

Section 3. Definition of Terms

Whenever used in these Guidelines, the following terms shall have the respective meanings hereafter set forth or indicated unless the context requires otherwise;

a) **Best execution** refers to the obligation of the Trustee to use reasonable diligence in ascertaining the best available price for the investment and, to buy or sell at a price so that the resultant price is as favorable as possible to the Trust Fund under prevailing market conditions.

b) **Collective Investment Schemes (CIS)** refer to any arrangement whereby funds are pooled together for the purpose of investing in a portfolio of securities or other financial assets.

c) **Delinquent Plant** refers to a Pre-Need Plan where any due installment has been unpaid.

d) **Exchange** refers to an organized marketplace or facility that brings together buyers and sellers and executes trades of securities and/or commodities.

e) **In Force Plan** refers to a Pre-Need Plan for which the Pre-Need Corporation has an outstanding obligation, either for the (i) delivery of Pre-Need Benefits or (ii) payment of Termination Value.

f) **Investment Strategy** refers to a method of portfolio management and asset allocation that a Trustee employs.

g) **Lapsed Plan** refers to a Delinquent Plan which has remained unpaid beyond the grace period of two (2) months from date of delinquency.

h) **Liquidity Reserve Fund** refers to a portion of the Trust Fund set aside by the Trustee to cover the Pre-Need Benefits.

i) **Pre-Need Benefits** refer to the payment of monetary consideration and/or performance of future services which the Pre-Need Corporation undertakes to deliver either to the Planholder or his beneficiary at the time of actual need or agreed maturity date, as specified in the Pre-Need Plan.

j) **Pre-Need Reserves** refer to the measure of liabilities of the Pre-Need Corporation for its in Force Plans or Lapsed Plans as of valuation date. It is set up for the Pre-Need Benefits payable by the Pre-Need Corporation as stated in the plan contract

k) **Termination Value** refers to the amount the Planholder should be paid upon surrender of the Pre-Need Plan prior to maturity or availment of full Pre-Need Benefits.

l) **Trust Agreement** refers to an instrument in writing covering the terms and conditions of the Trust.

m) **Trust Fund** refers to the fund set up from the Planholders' payments, separate and distinct from the paid-up capital of a registered Pre-Need Corporation, established with a Trustee under a Trust Agreement approved by the Commission, to pay for the Pre-Need Benefits as provided in the plan contract.

n) **Trust Fund Equity** refers to the total assets less total liabilities of the Trust Fund.

o) **Trust Investment Committee** refers to a body of the Trustee which reviews and approves transactions between trusts and/or fiduciary accounts.

p) **Trustee** refers to a trust company, trust department of a bank or an investment house that is authorized to perform trust and other fiduciary functions by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) and act as Trustee for Pre-Need Corporations.

q) **Trustor** refers to the Pre-Need Corporation.

Section 4. Trust Fund

A Trust Fund shall be separately established for each type of plan with a trust company, trust department of a bank or an investment house authorized to perform trust and other fiduciary functions by the BSP.

Section 5. Trust Agreement

The proposed Trust Agreement, for each type of plan, shall be submitted by the concerned Pre-Need Corporation to the Commission for approval before execution and shall contain and/or state, among other things, the following provisions:

a) The Trust Fund shall be under the management and control of the Trustee;

b) Investment powers of the Trustee with respect to the Trust Fund;

c) The required monthly regular contributions to the Trust Fund shall be deposited and credited to the Trust Fund account in accordance with Section 11 of these Guidelines;

d) Investments, loans or credit accommodations to directors, officers, stockholders and related interests (DOSRI) of the Pre-Need Corporation and the Trustee are prohibited unless otherwise allowed by these Guidelines or the Commission;

e) Withdrawals and payments from the Trust Fund;

f) Recognition and measurement of Trust Fund assets and liabilities;

g) Continuing authorization for the Commission's duly authorized representative/s to examine and verify the Trust Fund;

h) Undertaking to abide by the rules and regulations and investment guidelines of the Commission relating to the Trust Fund;

i) Disclosure and submission within forty eight (48) hours from the date of execution of any material agreement between the Trustor and the Trustee other than the Trust Agreement;

j) Prior notice by the Trustee to, and, approval by, the Commission of amendments to or termination of the Trust Agreement;

k) Contractual liability of the Trustee to the Trustor in case of substantial losses to the Trust Fund as a result of fraud, gross negligence or evident bad faith; and

l) Undertaking by the Trustee to submit to the Commission such other data or information as may be required by the latter.

Section 6. Responsibilities of the Trustee

The Trust Fund, inclusive of earnings, shall be administered and managed by the Trustee for the protection of the Planholders. The Trustee shall exercise the skill, care and diligence that a prudent man acting in the same capacity would give under the circumstances, guided by sound investment principles, and taking into consideration, among other things, the following:

a) preservation of capital
b) risk diversification
c) growth of investment portfolio

Section 7. Investments of the Trust Fund

7.1 To ensure the liquidity of the Trust Fund and to meet the Pre-Need Reserves essential to the delivery of the Pre-Need Benefits under the plan contract, Trustees are allowed to invest the Trust Fund in the following:

a) ***Securities***

i) Evidence of indebtedness of the Republic of the Philippines and any other evidence of indebtedness or obligations the servicing and repayment of which are fully guaranteed by the Republic of the Philippines (ROP), such as, but not limited to, treasury bills, fixed rate treasury notes, retail treasury bonds, denominated either in Philippine or in foreign currency, and foreign currency linked notes.

ii) Loans, bonds or other evidence of indebtedness issued by government agencies/entities and government owned and controlled corporations, and guaranteed by the Republic of the Philippines as to the payment of the principal and the interest.

iii) Bonds and other evidence of indebtedness issued by:

iii.1) the government of any foreign country with which the Philippines maintains diplomatic relations, with a credit rating obtained from a reputable international credit rating agency or a credit rating agency acceptable to the Commission that is at least two (2) notches higher than that of ROP bonds, and

iii.2) supranationals (or international organizations whose membership transcends national boundaries or interests, e.g. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Asian Development Bank).

iv) Corporate bonds of privately-owned domestic corporations duly registered with the Commission with a current credit rating[1] of at least "A" by an accredited Philippine rating agency.

v) Corporate bonds registered in another country with a credit rating obtained from a reputable international credit rating agency that is at least two (2) notches higher than that of ROP bonds.

vi) Commercial papers duly registered with the Commission with an investment grade credit rating based on the rating scale of an accredited Philippine rating agency at the time of investment.

vii) Equities listed on a local Stock Exchange.

These shall include stocks issued by companies that are financially stable, actively traded, possess good track record of growth and have declared dividends for the past three (3) years.

The Trustee shall in no case be allowed to fully invest the Trust Fund in a single issue.

viii) Savings and/or time deposits (peso or foreign currency denominated) maintained with a universal, commercial or thrift bank that passed the Trustee's investment review process.

ix) Loans to private corporations that passed the Trustee's investment review process subject to the following guidelines:

ix.1) If classified as held-to-maturity, the remaining term to maturity shall not exceed ten (10) years unless matched to a liability for a batch of maturing benefits;

ix.2) If collateralized, the borrower shall have a credit rating of at least "BAA" or "Average" by an accredited Philippine rating agency;

ix.2.1) The loan shall be fully secured by any of the following:

ix.2.1.1) Assignment of deposits maintained with universal, commercial or thrift banks other than the Trustee's own bank proper provided the financial institution passed the Trustee's investment review process;

ix.2.1.2) Standby letters of credit for the term of the loan issued by a universal or commercial bank subject to the requirements under Sections 7.1(a)(viii) and 7.2(b);

ix.2.1.3) Real estate mortgage up to the extent of seventy five percent (75%) of the appraised value of the respective real estate security plus sixty percent (60%) of the appraised value of the insured improvements at the time the loan was granted.

The property shall be covered by an Original/ Transfer Certificate of Title (OCT/TCT) registered in the name of the mortgagor and free from liens and encumbrances;

ix.2.1.4) Mortgage Trust Indenture (MTI) and Mortgage Participation Certificates (MPCs);

ix.2.2) For loans guaranteed by a parent company, the latter shall have had net profitable operations for the past three (3) consecutive years or have a credit rating of at least "BAA" or its equivalent by an accredited Philippine rating agency.

If an updated independent third party rating is not available, the parent company must have an equivalent credit rating based on the Trustee's internal rating system.

ix.3) If not collateralized but covered by a negative pledge of the borrower not to permit its properties to be mortgaged to creditors, the borrower corporation shall have obtained a current credit rating of at least "A" or an equivalent rating of "Above Average".

Furthermore, it must show profitable operations for the past three (3) consecutive years preceding the grant of the loan and shall have no accumulated capital deficit immediately preceding the grant of the loan.

x) Senior, subordinated or hybrid debt securities issued by banks other than the Trustee's own bank proper, classified under Tier 1 or Tier 2 in its capital structure provided that the issuer has an investment grade credit rating based on the rating scale of an accredited Philippine rating agency or a rating of at least satisfactory from the BSP at the time of investment.

If an independent third party rating is not available or is not updated, the investment must have an equivalent credit rating based on the Trustee's internal rating system.

b) Collective Investment Schemes (CIS)

i) CIS duly registered with the Commission

Allowable CIS must have a track record of performance at par with or above the median performance of pooled funds in the same category.

New CIS may be allowed provided that its fund manager has at least a three (3) year track record in managing pooled funds.

ii) Offshore Mutual Funds with positive fund performance as against their benchmark index for the past three (3) consecutive years.

The maximum exposure to CIS shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the total Trust Fund equity.

c) Real Estate

Income generating commercial and residential real estate properties, unless otherwise disallowed by the Commission.

These shall include real estate properties located in strategic areas of cities and first class municipalities. The OCT/TCT shall be in the name of the owner, free from liens and encumbrances and shall be transferred in the name of the Trustee in trust for the planholders or the Trust Agreement shall be annotated on the OCT/TCT within ninety (90) days from the date of investment or the execution of the Trust Agreement. The original copy of the OCT/TCT shall be placed in the possession of the trustee.

The real estate properties shall be appraised every three (3) years by a licensed real estate appraiser duly accredited by the Commission to reflect the increase or decrease in their value. The appraisal increment or decrement shall be disclosed in the books of the Trust Fund. The said increment shall not be used either to cover up the required monthly contribution to the Trust Fund or any deficiency in the Trust Fund as of the end of actuarial valuation date.

The total recorded value of the real estate investment shall not exceed fifteen percent (15%) of the total Trust Fund equity.

d) Planholder Loans

This investment shall be subject to the following conditions:

i.) The amount to be invested shall not exceed five percent (5%) of the total Trust Fund equity;

ii.) The loan amortizations collected by Pre-Need Corporations shall not be used directly to fund the payment of benefits for maturing obligations but shall be deposited to the Trust Fund not later than two (2) working days from receipt;

iii.) The terms and conditions of the loan agreement shall be made known to the planholders; and

iv.) The loan agreement shall comply with the provisions of the Truth in Lending Act.

7.2 Notwithstanding the prohibition against transactions with directors, officers, stockholders and related interests (DOSRI) of the Trustor or the Trustee, the Trustee may invest in the following outlets:

a) Equities of companies related to the Trustee that are listed on a local Stock Exchange.

These shall include stocks issued by companies that are financially stable, actively traded, possess good track record of growth and have declared dividends for the past three (3) years.

The Trustee shall in no case be allowed to fully invest the Trust Fund in a single issue.

The foregoing investment may subsequently be disallowed by the Commission, and, where proper, subject the Trustee to sanctions for gross violation of prudential standards.

b) Savings and/or time deposits with the trustee's own bank proper, whether it be universal, commercial or thrift bank, provided it has a rating of at least satisfactory as of the last examination by the BSP and prior approval of the Commission is secured.

7.3 Except for investments under Section 7.1(a)(i) hereof, records of analyses supporting the investments and records of the Trust Investment Committee's approval pertaining to the said investments shall be maintained and made available to the Commission upon request.

The said records, when ordered submitted by the Commission, shall be certified by a responsible officer of the Trustee.

To show proof of best execution, the Trustee shall maintain records or quotes from two (2) alternative providers, whenever applicable, or data from any reputable source that can best provide a basis for the asset's fair value. Such records shall be made available to the Commission upon request.

Section 8. Recognition and Measurement of Trust Fund Assets and Liabilities

The Trust Fund Assets and Liabilities shall be recognized in accordance with the provisions of the effective Philippine Accounting Standards (PAS) and Philippine Financial Reporting Standards (PFRS) and their interpretations, which include the following:

a) PAS 39 for Financial Instruments
b) PAS 40 for Investment Property

Section 9. Liquidity Reserve Fund

No less than twenty percent (20%) of the net value of the Trust Fund assets per type of plan shall be set aside as a liquidity reserve to cover the Pre-Need Benefits due to Planholders. For this purpose, the Pre-Need Corporation shall submit to the Trustee and to the Commission a list of fully paid plans maturing during the year on or before the fifteenth (15th) day of the first month of the fiscal year of the Pre-Need Corporation. Furthermore, the Pre-Need Corporation shall submit to the Commission a three-year cash flow projection on how to fund these benefit obligations from its liquid Trust Fund assets on an annual basis on or before the end of the second month of the fiscal year of the Pre-Need Corporation.

The Liquidity Reserve Fund shall consist of cash or assets in the Trust Fund that are easily convertible to cash. The following shall qualify as investments for the Liquidity Reserve Fund:

a) Evidence of indebtedness of the Republic of the Philippines and other evidence of indebtedness or obligations, the servicing and repayment of which are fully guaranteed by the Republic of the Philippines such as, but not limited to, treasury bills, reverse repurchase agreements (RRP) and special deposit accounts (SDA);

b) Savings and/or time deposits (peso or foreign currency denominated) in accordance with Sections 7.1(a)(viii) and 7.2(b);

c) Equities listed on a local Stock Exchange.

These shall include stocks issued by companies that are financially stable, actively traded, possess good track record of growth and have declared dividends for the past three (3) years.

The Trustee shall in no case be allowed to fully invest the Trust Fund in a single issue.

Section 10. Reportorial Requirements

10.1 The Pre-Need Corporation shall publish its audited balance sheet together with the consolidated Trust Fund Balance Sheet once a year within one hundred and twenty (120) days from the end of the fiscal year in a newspaper of general circulation in the city/province where the Pre-Need Corporation has its head office.

The details of the changes in equity, such as income or loss for the period, retained earnings, beginning and ending, shall be provided in the Equity Section of the Balance Sheet of the Pre-Need Corporation. Earnings from corporate assets shall be segregated from the Accumulated Income of the Trust Fund.

A copy of such statement as published, together with the publisher's certificate, shall be submitted to the Commission within two (2) working days after said publication.

10.2 An Annual Investment Strategy shall be submitted by the Trustee to the Commission on or before the end of the second month of the fiscal year of the Pre-Need Corporation, showing the allocation of the proposed investment for the next three (3) years.

10.3 A monthly report of the Trust Fund shall be submitted by the Trustee to the Trustor and the Commission within ten (10) days after the end of each month for reconciliation purposes of the Trustor and the Commission and shall include the following:

a) Balance Sheet

The equity portion of the Trust Fund Balance Sheet shall state the following:

i) Contributions and withdrawals for the reporting period shall be segregated from the prior year's accumulated figures.

ii) Retained earnings for the reporting period shall be segregated from the prior year's accumulated surplus.

b) An Income Statement, three (3) column report to include:

i) Month to Date income with equivalent ROI
ii) Year to Date income with equivalent ROI

c) Return of Investment (ROI) Computation Schedule

i) For the Month
ii) Year to Date

The total portfolio shall be computed net of taxes and fees and inclusive of mark-to-market gains and losses.

The following shall be the standard formula for computing return on investment:

$$ROI = \left[\left(1+\frac{(EndingMV - BegMV)-(Cont - Wth)}{BegMV + (WtdCont - WtdWthd)}\right)^{\frac{365}{n}}\right]-1$$

WHERE:

EndingMV = Ending Market Value
BegMV = Beginning Market Value
Cont = Contributions for the period
With = Withdrawals for the period
n = Number of days for the period where ROI is computed
WtdCont = Sum of contributions which are weighted based on the number of days these were held in the fund.
WtdWthd = Sum of withdrawals which are given weights based on the number of days these were held in the fund for the period involved

d) Schedule of Earning Assets including Mark-to-Market (M-T-M) Gains and Losses as of each ROI reporting date in item (c) above

e) Special Transactions Report which lists transactions, outstanding balances and pertinent investment details on DOSRI Investments

f) Investment Activity Report/Summary of Transactions Schedule

g) Portfolio analysis schedule

h) Trustee's Certificate on Trust Fund Balance

i) Summary of accounting policies on each significant trust fund assets and liabilities. If there would be no change in the policies for the succeeding months, a mere statement of consistent application would suffice.

j) Explanatory or disclosure notes on significant items as required under PAS 32, 39, 40 and PFRS 7

k) Such other statements and schedules as may be reasonably requested by the trustor.

10.4 Monthly report on remittance to the Trustee of loan amortizations collected, pursuant to Section 7.1(d), from the planholders by the Pre-Need Corporation together with the Certified True Copies of Official Receipts, as proof of deposit to the Trust Fund, to be submitted not later than ten (10) days after the end of each reference month.

Section 11. Time of Making Deposits to the Trust Fund

Trust Fund deposits which shall be sourced from collections of payments from plans sold either in cash or installment for the first half of the month, shall be made not later than three (3) working days after the end of the first half of the current month, and for collections made on the second half, not later than three (3) working days following the end of the reference month.

If the Commission discovers a deficiency in the Trust Fund, it shall give notice of its finding to the Pre-Need Corporation and require it to make additional deposits to the Trust Fund. The Pre-Need Corporation shall have thirty (30) days from receipt of notice, or, submission of the actuarial valuation report, whichever is earlier, to make the necessary deposit to correct the deficiency.

Any excess in the Trust Fund of each plan shall not be credited to future deposit requirements, or transferred from one type of plan to another.

Section 12. Transitory Provisions

12.1 Within one (1) year from the effectivity of these Guidelines, the following investments of the Trust Fund must be divested, unless otherwise allowed by the Commission:

a) Unlisted shares of stock,
b) Excess from the prescribed limit of the investment portfolio allocation,
c) Non-income generating real estate properties, and
d) Other investments not allowed by these Guidelines.

Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of these Guidelines, the Trustee shall submit an inventory of the Trust Fund investments in the foregoing enumeration and a time-bound divestment program for the approval of the Commission.

12.2 The Trustee shall comply with the new reportorial requirements within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of these Guidelines.

Section 13. Sanctions

Failure to comply with these Guidelines shall subject the Pre-Need Corporation and/or the Trustee, after due notice and hearing, to sanctions set forth in the Schedule of Penalties[2] attached herewith for reference and incorporated as an integral part of these Guidelines.

The payment of the assessed fines and penalties shall in no case be sourced from the Trust Fund.

Section 14. Repealing Clause

All circulars, rules and regulations or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of these Guidelines are deemed repealed, superseded or modified accordingly.

Section 15. Effectivity

These Guidelines shall be published twice in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines and shall take effect on November 1, 2007.

Issued on 27 September 2007 at EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) FE B. BARIN
Chairperson

(Sgd.) MA. JUANITA E. CUETO
Commissioner

(Sgd.) JESUS ENRIQUE G. MARTINEZ
Commissioner

(Sgd.) RAUL J. PALABRICA
Commissioner

(Sgd.) THADDEUS E. VENTURANZA
Commissioner

APPENDIX "A"

DESCRIPTION OF CREDIT RATINGS

For purposes of these Guidelines, the credit rating equivalent shall be as follows:

	Rating
INVESTMENT GRADE	
Highest Quality	Aaa or AAA
High Quality (Very Strong)	Aa or AA
Upper Medium Grade (Strong)	A
Medium Grade	Baa or BBB
NON-INVESTMENT GRADE	
Lower Medium Grade (somewhat speculative)	Ba or BB
Low Grade (speculative)	B
Poor Quality (may default)	Caa or CCC
Most Speculative	Ca or CC
No interest bearing paid or bankruptcy petition filed	C
In default	C or D

Definition of Symbols

Aaa or AAA: Smallest degree of investment risk. Interest payments are protected by a large or by an exceptionally stable margin and principal secured. While the various protective elements are likely to change, such changes as can be visualized are most unlikely to impair the fundamentally strong position of such issues.

Aa or AA: Margins of protection may not be as large as in Aaa issues. Fluctuations of protective elements may be of greater amplitude or there may be other elements present which make the long-term risk appear somewhat larger than for Aaa-rated securities.

A: With favorable investment attributes and are considered upper-medium grade obligations. Factors giving security to principal and interest are considered adequate but elements may be present which suggest a susceptibility to impairment sometime in the future.

Baa or BBB: Neither highly protected nor poorly secured. Interest payments and principal security appear adequate for the present but certain protective elements may be lacking or may be characteristically unreliable over any great length of time. Such issues lack outstanding investment characteristics and in fact have speculative characteristics as well.

Ba or BB: Judged to have speculative elements. The issuer's capability to pay for such issues cannot be considered as well assured. Often, the protection of interest and principal payments may be very moderate and thereby not well safeguarded during both good and bad times over the future.

B: Generally lacks the characteristics of a desirable investment. Assurance of interest and principal payments or maintenance of other terms of contract over any long period of time may be small.

Caa or CCC: Poor standing. High possibility of default and there may be present elements of danger with respect to principal or interest.

Ca or CC: Very poor standing. Has other marked shortcomings. The issue may be in default.

C or D. In default.

APPENDIX "B"

SCHEDULE OF PENALTIES

SEC MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 4, series of 2007.	VIOLATIONS	SANCTIONS		
		FIRST OFFENSE	SECOND OFFENSE	THIRD OFFENSE
Section 5	Failure to secure the approval of the Commission on matters relating to Trust Agreements prior to its implementation/execution	P10,000	P20,000	P30,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON BOTH THE TRUSTOR AND TRUSTEE		
Section 5(i)	Failure to disclose within the prescribed period any material agreement between the Trustor and Trustee, other than the Trust Agreement	P10,000	P20,000	P30,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON BOTH THE TRUSTOR AND TRUSTEE		
Section 5(j)	Failure to secure prior approval of the Commission on the amendment or termination of the Trust Agreement	P10,000	P20,000	P30,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON BOTH THE TRUSTOR AND TRUSTEE		
Section 7	Failure to maintain the prescribed investment limits	P20,000	P30,000	P40,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTEE		
	Failure to comply with any of the requirements for the investment of the Trust Fund	P20,000	P30,000	P40,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTEE		
Section 7.1(c)	Failure to transfer in the name of the Trustee or annotate the Trust Agreement in the OCT/TCT	P20,000	P30,000	P40,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON BOTH THE TRUSTOR AND TRUSTEE		
Section 7.1(d)	Failure to remit to the Trust Fund the loan amortization collected from Planholders	P50,000	P100,000	P150,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTOR		
Section 7.3	Refusal/Failure to furnish proof of best execution, records of analyses or other information required by the Commission	Reprimand	P10,000	P20,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTEE		
Section 8	Failure to comply with the provisions of PAS 39 and 40 in the recognition and measurement of Trust Fund	Reprimand	P10,000	P20,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTEE		
Section 9	Failure to comply with the Liquidity Reserve Fund	P20,000	P30,000	P40,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTEE		
	Non-filing/Late Filing of the list of fully paid plans maturing during the year	P10,000	P20,000	P30,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTOR		
	Non-filing/Late Filing of cash flow projection	Reprimand	P10,000	P20,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTOR		
Section 10.1	Failure to publish the Audited Financial Statement within 120 days after the end of fiscal year	P20,000	P30,000	P40,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTOR		
	Non-filing/Late Filing of the publisher's certificate	Reprimand	P10,000	P20,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTOR		
	Material Misstatement in the Report submitted to or required by the Commission	P50,000	P100,000	P150,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTOR		
	Misrepresentation or misleading statements in any report submitted to or required by the Commission	P50,000	P100,000	P150,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTOR		
Section 10.2	Non-filing/Late filing of an annual Investment Strategy	Reprimand	P10,000	P20,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTEE		
Section 10.3	Non-filing/Late filing of monthly report	Reprimand	P10,000	P20,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTEE		
	Material Misstatement in the Report submitted to or required by the Commission	P50,000	P100,000	P150,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTEE		
	Misrepresentation or misleading statements in any report submitted to or required by the Commission	P50,000	P100,000	P150,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTEE		
Section 10.4	Non-filing/Late Filing of monthly reports on remittance to the Trustee of loan amortizations collected pursuant	Reprimand	P10,000	P20,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTOR		
Section 11	Failure to deposit the required regular monthly contributions to the Trust Fund	P50,000 + P300/day of continuing violation	P100,000 + P300/day of continuing violation	P150,000 + P300/day of continuing violation
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTOR		
	Failure to deposit the required regular monthly contributions to the Trust Fund within the prescribed period	P50,000	P100,000	P150,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTOR		
	Failure to make additional deposits to the Trust Fund cover deficiencies	P50,000 + P300/day of continuing violation	P100,000 + P300/day of continuing violation	P150,000 + P300/day of continuing violation
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTOR		
	Failure to make additional deposits to the Trust Fund cover deficiencies within the prescribed period	P50,000	P100,000	P150,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTOR		
	Crediting of excess in the Trust Fund for future deposit	P50,000	P100,000	P150,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTOR		
Section 12.1	Failure to divest the ineligible investments/ failure to divest within the prescribed period	P20,000	P30,000	P40,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTEE		
	Non-Filing/Late Filing of an inventory of investments of the Trust Fund and a time-bound divestment program	Reprimand	P10,000	P20,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE TRUSTEE		
Section 13	Withdrawal from the Trust Fund for the purpose of payment of assessed fines and penalties	P50,000	P100,000	P150,000
		THIS IS IMPOSABLE UPON THE BOTH THE TRUSTOR AND TRUSTEE		

(PDI--October 18, 2007)

"For Earth you formed me,
with flesh you clothed me,
Lord, My redeemer,
raise me up again at the last day."

Pilar Bailon Vda. de Roces

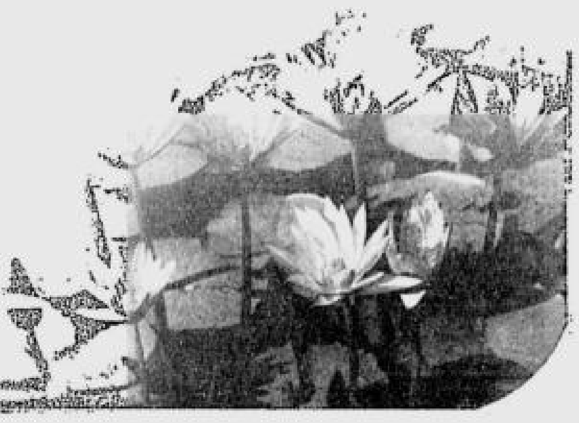
October 27, 1910 – October 13, 2007

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord at the age of 96.

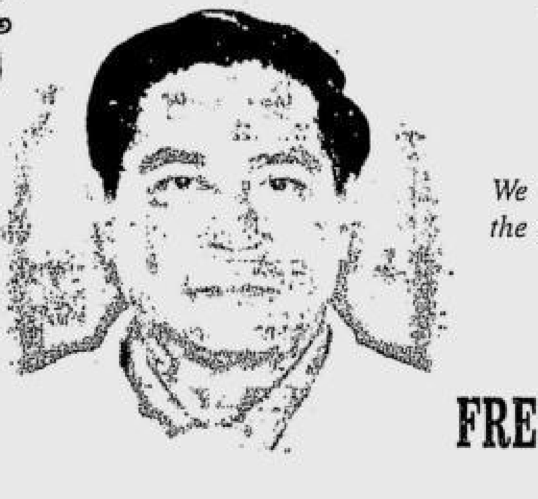
Her husband **JOSE** (†), children **LANDO** and **LOY**, **NITA** and **PHILIP**, **MARILOU** and **BOBOY** (†) and **MIMI**, **CHITA** (†) and **PABLO**, **NORMA** and **LEO** (†), grandchildren **PONG** & **MAY**, **MARITZ** & **WESLEY**, **OBET** & **CARMEN**, **TRICIA** & **VIJAY**, **JUN** & **ABBY**, **MOPPETTE**, **JP**, **COI**, **LOU**, **ERIK**, **MARICON**, **JOY**, **BONG** & **PAULA**, **MIKE** & **GEMMA**, **IDA**, **SHIELA** and **CHE-CHE** & **JOMAR**; great-grandchildren **WADE**, **CAMILLE**, **CAITLYN**, **JOSE JR**, **MICHELLE**, **MONICA**, **BRUCE** and **YUSUF**; sisters-in-law **MAMENG**, **BABIE**, **MERCY**, **UPING**, and brother-in-law **JUN**, request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at 508 F. Lotivio St.,
Ilawod 2, Daraga, Albay.

Interment will be on October 20, 2007,
Saturday at the Daraga Catholic
Cemetery after the 12:30 p.m. Mass
at the Daraga Parish Church.



In Loving Memory
and In Prayers



We remember the husband, the father, the brother, the grandfather, the friend, and the mentor on the FIRST Anniversary of his passing:

FREDERICK "FRED" SOMERA PADA

June 7, 1933 - October 18, 2006

Who dedicatedly served as:

President - **Technological University of the Philippines**
- **Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez Institute of Science & Technology, Manila**
- **Pamantasan ng Makati**

President Emeritus - **Technological University of the Philippines**
President & Executive Director - **Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC)**

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches, today, Thursday, October 18, 2007:

Christ the King Parish	*Green Meadows, Quezon City*
Our Lady of the Abandoned Church	*Marikina City*
Sto. Niño Parish	*Green Park, Pasig City*
Sta. Lucia Parish	*Manggahan, Pasig City*
St. Vincent De Paul Church	*Ermita, Manila*
Our Lady of the Abandoned	*Sta. Ana, Manila*
St. Francis Church Parish	*Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City*
St. Paul Cathedral	*Vigan, Ilocos Sur*
St. Catherine Parish	*Sta. Catalina, Ilocos Sur*
St. Elizabeth Parish	*Van Nuys, California, USA*
St. Columban Parish	*Garden Grove, California, USA*
St. John Neuman Parish	*Irvine, California, USA*

46th Death Anniversary
of the
LATE PRESIDENT

SERGIO OSMEÑA, SR.

(1878 - 1961)

Masses will be offered at the following Churches
on 19 October 2007:

Malate Catholic Church *Malate, Manila*	6:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish *Ermita, Metro Manila*	6:30 a.m.
Santuario de San Antonio Parish *Forbes Park, Makati City*	7:30 a.m.
St. John Bosco Parish *Pasay Road, Makati City*	7:30 a.m.
Basilica Minore of Immaculate Concepcion Cathedral *Malolos City, Bulacan*	6:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish *Barasoain, Malolos City, Bulacan*	6:00 a.m.
Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag *Pangasinan*	6:00 a.m.
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish *Cebu City*	5:45 a.m.
St. Therese Parish *Lahug, Cebu City*	6:00 a.m.
Redemptorist Church *Cebu City*	6:00 a.m.
Basilica del Sto. Niño *Magallanes St., Cebu City*	5:30 p.m.
San Roque Parish Church *Wireless Mandaue City*	6:00 p.m.
Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral *Cebu City*	6:00 p.m.
Sto. Rosario Parish *P. del Rosario Street, Cebu City*	6:15 p.m.

Readers are requested to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

The Ateneo de Manila High School
Class of 1956
announces with great sorrow the demise of its
beloved classmate

Jose E. Jamias, Jr.

Joe departed this life on October 9, 2007
in Daly City, California, USA leaving behind
his loving wife, **Emelita**, children,
Jocelyn, **Joel**, **Margarita**, **Edsel** (Julie) and **Rommel**
and sisters **Resy**, **Magdalena**, **Sr. Margarita** and **Rosemary**.

He is fondly remembered not only by his classmates
in Ateneo HS '56 and AB '60 but also
by his colleagues in America especially by
The Knights of Columbus where he served
as Past President of the St. Francis Chapter in Daly City.

A Memorial Mass for Joe and our other departed classmates
will be held at 10 a.m. on Sunday, November 11th
at the Ateneo High School Chapel in Loyola Heights.

Joe's last message to his family and friends:
You must not tie yourself to me in tears but instead remember
the joys, the music, my Elvis songs, my rose and vegetable garden,
the laughter and the smiles. Be happy that we had so many years.
You can only guess how much happiness you all gave to me.

ALFREDO "FRED" BORROMEO CRISOL

of Loyola Heights, Quezon City

Ateneo GS '68 & HS '72 • UP AB '77 & UP MBA '91

Joined our Creator and was reunited
*with his parents, **Jose** and **Carmen Crisol.***
He passed away on October 5, 2007
in California, USA at the age of 52.

His spouse **Susan Martinez**; children **Jeff** and **Joseph**; his siblings and their spouses **Marilou** & **Rudy** (**De Ocampo**), **Jing** & **Tutti** (**Suntay**), **Bobby** & **Girlie** (**Hizon**), **Dodo**, **Ricky** & **Tetet** (**Limjap**), **Joey** & **Kathy** (**Lluch**); nieces and nephews; other relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

An anticipated mass, memorial service, and the blessing of his ashes will be held on **Saturday, 20 October 2007 at 6:45 p.m.** at the **Ateneo De Manila High School Chapel,** Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

No talks with China yet on deployment of OFWs - DOLE

THE DEPARTMENT OF Labor and Employment (Dole) recently clarified reports that the government has put on hold the deployment of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) to China as a result of the controversy brought by the national broadband network (NBN) deal.

"There is nothing to put on hold because there is no formal talk yet with China as far as the deployment of OFWs is concerned," Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo Brion said.

"We are still in the process of looking at the possibility of tapping China as a new market for OFWs, especially for teachers and other skilled workers. China is one of the emerging labor markets that will sustain deployment in the years to come," Brion added.

The first step in establishing labor arrangements is to determine if we need such a relationship. The DOLE did this through our internal conference at midyear this year with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, and our Asian labor attaches, Brion clarified.

The second step, he added, is to secure a budget if we intend to put up a labor office. The DOLE recently asked Congress for this fund and is now waiting for results.

"The next step is to notify the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) who will help us establish the linkage through diplomatic channels. We have not reached this stage so any talk of formal negotiation is premature," the Labor Chief further said.

Brion deplored the news reports linking the possible labor ties with the NBN deal. "Let's hope we have not started on the wrong foot on our future relationship with China because of this news report," he said.

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JAIME G. ENCARNACION

of Vigan, Ilocos Sur

Surrendered his spirit to the Lord
on October 16, 2007 at the age of 77.

He is survived by his children **VICTOR & PAULITA**, **MARY ANN** and **JUN**, **THERESA** and **JONATHAN**, grandchildren **NOEL**, **STEPHEN**, **ANDREA**, **ANICA**, **FRANCINE** and **FAITH**, beloved brother **NONOY** and sister **PILAR**, in-laws, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends, whose lives he has touched by his humility, total surrender to God, and perseverance.

His remains lie in state at the Sacred Heart Parish (St. Joseph Center), Kamuning, Quezon City. Interment will be at Loyola Marikina, on Saturday, October 20, 2007 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass

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The Augustinian Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation

beg you to recommend to God in your prayers
and sacrifices the eternal repose of our dear

SR. YOLANDA M. TEJERERO, OSA

(Christina Molina Tejerero)
July 24, 1932

who passed away on October 16, 2007 at the age of 75.

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

Funeral Mass will be on October 18, 2007 at 8:00 a.m. at the LA Consolacion Convent Chapel, 273 Santolan Road, San Juan, Metro Manila. Interment will follow at the La Loma Cemetery after the Mass

---

So lovingly remembered... So dearly missed...
On his 1st Death Anniversary

RAMON J. GODINEZ, SR.

of BF Resort, Las Piñas City

Masses will be offered today, October 18, 2007 at the following churches

Mother of Perpetual Help	6:00 am	Baclaran, Parañaque
Our Lady of Remedies	6:00 am	Malate, Manila
Resurrection of Our Lord	6:30 am	BF Parañaque
San Beda Chapel	6:30 am	Alabang Hills Village
St. Isidore Church	7:00 am	Bloomingdale, Illinois
St. Vincent de Paul	7:00 am	Singapore
Sto. Niño de Paz Chapel	7:15 am	Greenbelt, Makati
Anawim Chapel	7:30 am	BF Resort, Las Piñas
St. John Bosco Parish	6:00 pm	Makati City
Our Lady of Fatima	All Masses	Philam Village, Las Piñas
St. Alphonsus de Liguori	All Masses	Magallanes, Makati